

*Country Contentments.*  
OR, THE  
**HUSBANDMANS**  
**Recreations.**

CONTAINING  
The Wholsome Experience, in  
which any ought to Recreate himself, after the  
toyl of more Serious Business.

As namely,  
**Hunting, Hawking, Coursing with**  
Grey-Hounds, and the Laws of Leash, Shooting in the  
Long-Bow or Crofs-Bow, Bowling, Tennis, Baloon;  
The whole Art of Angling; And the use of the  
Fighting Cock.

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By *G. M.*

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*The Tenth Edition.*

Newly Corrected, Enlarged, and adorned with many  
Excellent Additions, as may appear by this Mark ☞

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**To the thrice Noble and Ver-**  
tuous maintainer and furtherer of all lawful and  
worthy pleasures, Sir THEODORE NEWTON,  
Knight.

**S**IR, Howsoever banished by the necessity of mine Affairs from your presence, (in which I once built the best and happiest estate of my Life, beginning to love it, because I found you did employ it,) yet can I never be separated from your remembrance, because it is all the joy which is likely to live and dye with me; witness my soul, that shews me no worldly lesson so much, as the beneficial favours I have reapt from your vertue; which to acknowledge with a more earnest and serious fervency, I have sent this poor Book to kiss your hand, and speak to you in plain and short Rules those speeches which you have been willing to hear from my mouth; not doubting but they will give you satisfaction, and make me live both with you, and the inheritors of your vertues, to the last age. They are true and easie, drawn from these last times, not borrowed to bestow with a flattering insinuation, but faithfully drawn from Art, and from those Experiments which I once thought should have slept in the grave with me: but having lived so long from your eyes (which, I protest, my soul truly loves) I studied to think what grateful Ambassadors I might send to speak I love you: I love you, and finding none which I thought you would better hear than this, I furnished him with the best instructions I could, and sent him only attired in his own vertue, to tell you what I do, and what I will do, is ever to live and dye at your service,

Gervase Markham.

*To the best disposed Readers.*

**M**Any and sundry may be the constructions and censures of this Book (Courteous and well disposed Reader) because I have in former time written so largely of some part of the subject contained herein; but I would have no man mistaken in his own prejudicate opinion, but truly understand, that this is neither Epitome, Relation, Extraction, nor Repetition either of mine own, or any other Author whatsoever: but a plain form of doing things by a nearer and more easie and safer way then ever hath hitherto been discovered, drawn from the latest experiments in true art, and finding a nearer way to our ends by many degrees: for what before could not be done in divers years, here you shall see how to effect in few moneths; and what we bestowed moneths upon to seek, now we may find in few weeks. The Reasons which induc'd me to this labour were these; First to give satisfaction to the friends and savourers of my former Works, that when they hear men discourse of these passages to our delights, they may yet know, that the first was neither ill nor vain, but what now is derived from it; and that albeit we may be less curious, yet the curiosity is not altogether unprofitable, but both joyned together may make an absolute understanding. Then to give ease and a light burthen to the heavy and duller Memory, whom the tediousness of a great work may discourage: And lastly, because my former labour is utterly out of Print, whereby the Kingdome is deprived of the benefit I intended, I thought good to have something living of less price, and as great (perhaps greater) profit, which should satisfie all vertuous minds in any thing required, within the compass of those former shewed Recreations: not doubting but howsoever men may first give a light survey to these papers; yet if they once take pains to read them, they will after affirm them worthy of choice bosomes. And with this settled resolution I leave them to thy view, and thee to thine own rest.

*Ever one, Gervase Markham.*

Country



## COUNTRY CONTENTMENTS.

O R,

### The Husbandmans Recreation,

CONTAINING

The wholesome Exercises, in which any man ought  
to Recreate himself, after the toyl of more  
Serious Business.

## The First Book.

### CHAP. I.

*Of Hunting, and of all the particular Knowledges  
belonging thereunto.*

**H**AVING already in my former Work of the *English Husbandman*, set forth in sufficient largeness, the toyl and industrious labours of the careful *Husbandman*, and how both his Mind and Body ought in every season to be employ'd for the effecting and bringing forth of those wholesome profits, which God hath appointed for the maintenance of him and his Family: And in the Book last going before

fore called, *Cheap and Good*, shew'd the Cure and maintenance of his Cattle and Creatures bred by him and his labours, through Gods great Blessings; I think it not amiss here to speak of those lawful and praise-worthy exercises or recreations, in which (with Gods fear, and care of not offending his neighbour) he may soberly spend those hours which he shall bestow in the cheerful reviving and stirring up of his spirits, being formerly wearied or fore-done with the heavy toyl of more unpleasant (though more profitable) Studies: both because it is intended that a man so good and vertuous as the true *Husbandman* is, should not be deprived of any comfort or felicity, which the Earth or the Creatures of the Earth can afford to him, being indeed the Right Lord and Master (next under God) of them both; as also for the necessity thereof, being the strengthner and enabler of the Mind, to undergo the weightiest affairs that can any way poise or bear down imagination.

The necessity  
and use of  
Recreation.

Hence it comes, that the Heathen Sages or Wise men of the first World, founded with their *Laws*, their *Feasts*; with their *Labours*, their *Olympicks*; with their *Warfare*, their *Triumphs*; nay at this day we see the severest Pedants will give their Scholars their play-day, and the most covetous Masters will bind their hirelings but to certain hours; every toyl exacting (as out of duty) some time for Recreation: neither was there any *Stoick* found so cruel, either to himself or nature, but at sometime or other he would unbend his mind, and give it liberty to stray into some more pleasant walks, then the myry ways of his own wilful resolutions. As I have observed in the course of many men of exceeding strict lives, to whom albeit severity of profession, infirmity of body and age, or such like, have taken away all actual recreation, yet have their minds begot unto themselves some habits or customs of delight, which have in as large measure given them contentment, whether they were their own, or borrowed, as if they had been the sole Actors of the same.

But why wade I thus far in this untroubled Stream? Let it suffice then, that as Recreation is most necessary, so to none it is more due then to the *Husbandman*, and herein you may not expect, that I will go about to elect and prescribe what recreation he shall use, binding all men to one pleasure; God forbid: my purpose

purpose is meerly contrary; for I know in mens recreations, that Nature taketh to her self an especial Prerogative, and what to one is most pleasant, to another is most offensive; some seeking to satisfie the Mind, some the Body, and some both, in a joynt motion.

I will therefore, as far as my skill and knowledg will extend, figure forth to the life every severall recreation, leaving no limb or member imperfect, and then leave up to the choice of the *Husbandman*, that which shall best agree with his spirit: not doubting but as they are in themselves lawful and modest; so he will use them according to the worthiness of his own, and their virtues. Now for as much as these sports are many and divers, I think it not amiss to begin and give that recreation precedency of place, which in mine opinion (however it may be esteemed partial) doth many degrees go before, and precede all other, as being most royal for the stateliness thereof, most artificial for the wisdom and cunning thereof, and most Manly and Warlike for the use and insurance thereof. And this I hold to be the Hunting of wild Beasts in general: of which as Chafes are many, so I will speak of them particularly in their proper places.

But before I proceed any further, I will tell you what *Hunting* is, and from the true definition thereof, make your way more easie and plain into the hidden Art of the same.

Hunting is then a curious search or conquest of one Beast over another, pursued by a natural instinct of enmity, and accomplished by the diversities and distinction of smells only, wherein Nature equally dividing her cunning, giveth both to the offender and offended, strange knowledg both of offence and safety. In this recreation is to be seen the wonderful power of God in his Creatures, and how far rage and policy can prevail against innocency and wisdom.

But to proceed to my main purpose, you shall understand, that as the Chafes are many which we daily hunt, as that of the Stag, the Buck, the Roe, the Hare, the Fox, the Badger, the Otter, the Boar, the Goat, and such like; so the pursuers or conquerers of these Chafes (speaking of *Hunting* only) are but one kind of Creatures, namely, *Hounds*. Now of these hounds there are divers kinds, as the flow hound, which is a large dog,

dog, tall and heavy, and are bred for the most part in the West Counties of this Land, as also in *Cheshire* and *Lancashire*, and most woodland and mountainous Countries; then the middle siz'd dog, which is more fit for the Chase, being of a more nimble composure, and are bred in *Worcestershire*, *Bedfordshire*, and many other well mixt soyls, where the Champain and Covert are of equal largeness; then the light, nimble, swift, slender Dog, which is bred in the North parts of this Land, as *Yorkshire*, *Cumberland*, *Northumberland*, and many other plain Champion Countries: And lastly, the little *Beagle*, which may be carried in a mans glove, and are bred in many Countries for delight only, being of curious scents and passing cunning in their hunting; for the most part tyring, (but seldome killing) the prey, except at some strange advantage.

These Hounds are of divers colours, and according to their colours, so we elect them for the chase: As thus for example; The white Hound, or the white with black spots, or the white with some few liver spots, are the most principal, both to compose your Kennel of, and will indeed hunt any chase exceeding well, especially the Hare, Stag, Buck, Roe, or Otter; for they will well endure both woods and waters: yet if you demand which is the best and most beautiful of all colours, for the general Kennel, then I answer, The white with the black ears, and a black spot at the setting on of the tayl, and are ever found both of good scent, and good condition. The black hound, the black tann'd, or he that is all liver heav'd, or the milk white, which is the true Talbots, are best for the string or line, for they do delight most in blood, and have a natural inclination to hunt dry foot; and of these the largest is ever best, and most comely. The griffel'd, which are ever most commonly shag-hair'd or any other colour, whether it be mixt or unmixt, so it be shag-hair'd, are the best verminers, and therefore are chosen to hunt the Fox, Badger, or any other hot scents: they are exceeding good and cunning finders: and therefore have Huntsmen thought not amiss to have one, or a couple in every Kennel.

The shape and  
proportion of  
Hounds.

For the shape of your Hound, it must be according to the Climate where he is bred, and according to the natural composition



position of his body, as thus: If you would chooe a large, heavy, slow, true, Talbot like Hound, you must chooe him which hath a round, big, thick head, with a short nose uprising, and large open nostrils, which shews that he is of a good and quick scent, his ears exceeding large, thin, and down hanging much lower then h's chaps, and the flews of his upper lips almost two inches lower then his neither chaps, which shews a merry deep mounth, and a loud ringer, his back strong and streight, yet rather rising, then inwardly yielding, which shewes much toughnes and indurance; his fillets will be thick and great, which approves a quick gathering up of his legs without pain, his huckle bones round and hidden, which shews he will not tire, his Thighs round, and his Hams streight, which shews swiftness; his tail long, and rush grown, that is big at the setting on, and small downward, which shewes a perfect strong chine, and a good wind; the hair under his belly hard and stiffe, which shewes willingness and ability to endure labour in all weathers, and in all places; his legs large and lean which shews nimbleness in leaping or climbing, his foot round, high knuckled and well clawd, with a dry hard soal, which shews he will never subrait; and the general compofure of his body so just and even, that no level may distinguish whether his hinder or fore part be the higher: all which shew him of much ability, and that in his labour he will seldome find any annoyance. But if you will chooe a swift light Hound, then must his head be more slender, and his nose more long, his ears & flews more shallow, his back broad, his belly gaunt, his tail small, his joynts long, his foot round, and his general compofure much more slender, and Gray-Hound-like: and thus in the generality for the most part, are all your *Park-faire* Hounds, whose vertues I can praise no further then for scent and swiftness: for to speake of their mouths they have only a little sharp sweetness like Gig, but no depth or ground like more solemn musick.

Now to speak of the composition of Kennels, though there is a most certain known better hood, yet it is to men like beauty each allowing best of that which agrees with his own affection. The composition of kennels.

on, therefore when you intend to set up a Kennel of Hounds, examine your fancy what be the best pleasures you take in

Bb

Hounds

The middle-  
siz'd dog for  
running.

Hounds, whether it be cunning in hunting, sweetness, loudness or deepness of cry, whether it be for the training of your Horse, or else but merely for the exercise of your own body, being otherwise subject to grossness and infirmity : If it be for cunning hunting, you shall breed your dogs from the slowest and largest of the Northern Hounds, and the swiftest and slenderest of the West countrey Hounds, being both Male and Female, approved to be staunch, fair, and even-running, of perfect fine scent, and not given to lye off, or look for advantages. These Hounds will neither be so exceeding slow, that you will waste many dayes without some Fruit of your labour, or so unnimble, that you shall need men to help them over every hedge, as I have many times seen, to my much wonder; but having both strength and nimbleness, will hold you in continual delight and exercise; for these middle siz'd dogs are neither so swift that they will far out-run the scent, and so fetch many tedious rings to recover it; nor so slow, that for want of speed they will loose the scent, and let it grow cold by their own laziness, but being ever and anon upon it, bring Chase to such a narrow exigent, that the poor Beast shall be forc'd to try all the Skill, nature or strength hath lent it, to preserve life: and the Hounds on the other side, all their pains, and the Huntsman cunning, to undoe intricate doubles, Skips, Squats and windings with which they shall be perplexed; and in this mediocrity of hunting, shall your eye (if the covert be not too extream thick) take a perfect view of all the art and cunning in every passage, so that I conclude the middle sized Hound, of good strength, sound mouth, and reasonable speed, which will make a Horse gallop fast, and not run, is the best for the true Art and use of hunting.

For sweetness  
of cry.

If you would have your Kennel for sweetness of cry, then you must compound it of some large dogs, that have deep solemn Mouthes, and are swift in spending, which must as it were bear the base in the consort; then a double number of roaring, and loud ringing Mouthes, which must bear the counter tenor; then some hollow plain sweet Mouthes, which must bear the mean or middle part; and so with these three parts of Musick you shall make your cry perfect: and herein you shall observe that these Hounds thus mixt, do run just and even together, and



and not hang off loose from one another, which is the vilest sight that may be; and you shall understand, that this composition is best to be made of the swiftest and largest deep mouthed dog, the slowest middle siz'd dog, and the shortest legg'd slender dog, amongst these you may cast in a couple or two small single beagles, which as small trebles may warble amongst them: the cry will be a great deal the more sweet.

If you would have your Kennel for loudness of Mouth, For loudness you shall not then choose the hollow deep Mouth, but the loud of cry. clanging Mouth, which spendeth freely and sharply, and as it were redoubleth in utterance: and if you mix with them the Mouth that roareth, and the mouth that whineth, the cry will be both the louder and the smarter; and these Hounds are for the most part of the middle size, neither extream tall, nor extream deep flewed, such as for the most part your *Shrop-shire*, and pure *Worcester-shire* dogs are, and the more equally you compound the mouths, having as many Roarers as Spenders, and as many whiners, as of either of the other, the lower and pleasanter your cry will be, especially if it be in sounding tall woods, or under the eccho of Rocks.

If you would have your Kennel for depth of mouth, then you shall compound it of the largest dogs which have the greatest of cry. mouths and deepest flews, such as your *West Country*, *Che-shire* and *Lanca-shire* dogs are, and to five or six base couple of mouths shall not add above two couple of Counter tenors, as many means and not above one couple of Roarers, which being heard but now and then, as at the opening or hitting of a scent, will give much sweetness to the solemnness, and graveness of the cry, and the musick thereof will be much more delightfull to the ears of every beholder.

If you would have your Kennel for training of your Horse only, labouring thereby to bring him to the full perfection of speed, truth and roughness, then you shall compound your Kennel of the lightest, nimblest, and swiftest dogs, such as for the most part all your Northern Hounds are, which running swiftly away with the chase, will draw your Horse up to that extraordinary speed, that he will forget all ease or loitering, and acquaint himself dayly with the violence of such exercise, being so

For training  
Horses.

familiar therewith; that in the end it will be less troublesome to him then a slow gallop: and hence it was and is, that the North parts, are so famous for the truth and swiftness of their Horses, above all other Countries in this Kingdome; for it is most certain that their Horses are not better bred there, then in other places, but their exercise is much stronger, and violent through the natural swiftness of their Hounds, in so much, that unless a Horse either out of nature or education, be brought to a more then ordinary speed, it is impossible that his master should either see sport, or keep company with his companions.

A good caveat  
for Gentlemen.

Therefore I would have all young Gentlemen, which are addicted to the delight of hunting or running Horses, by all means to train them up after the swiftest Hounds: for it is the greatest deceit and cozenage a man can bestow upon himself, to do the contrary, as I have seen many times in my own experience, when a Gentleman who hath supposed his Hounds to be swift, which indeed were but of a middle speed, and hath seen his Horse follow them all dayly, lustily and strongly, in every Chase able to command the foremost Hound at his pleasure, he hath immediately in his own judgment concluded his Horse swift and matchable with the best, and from that opinion engaged him against a known swift Horse, for great summes of money: then when the day of tryal, hath been come, the Horse which had been trained after slow dogs, coming to follow those that were indeed swift, hath been drawn so far beyond the usual manner of former exercise, that he hath given over the Chase before the day hath been half spent.

This caveat I give for all mens instructions, because I have seen the loss which hath grown thereby. And now to return to my purpose; your Kennel thus composed of the swiftest Hounds, you shall as nigh as you can, sort their mouths into three equal parts of musick, that is to say, Base, Counter-tenor, and mean; the Base are those mouths which are most deep and solemn, and are spent out plain and freely, without redoubling: the Counter-tenor are those which are most loud and ringing, whose sharp sounds pass so swift, that they seem to dole and make division; and the mean are those which are soft sweet mouthes, that though plain, and a little hollow, yet are spent  
smooth

smooth and freely ; yet so distinctly, that a man may count the notes as they open. Of these three sorts of mouths if your Kennel be (as near as you can) equally compounded, you shall find it most perfect and delectable: for though they have not the thunder and loudness of the great dogs, which may be compared to the high wind-instruments, yet they will have the tunable sweetness of the best compounded consorts ; and sure a man may find as much Art and delight in a Lute, as in an Organ. But here me thinks, a too tender lover of a Horse stands at my elbow, and pulls me by the ear with this Objection, that to train Horses after dogs of this exceeding swiftness, will be a labour of that violence, which a young Horse will hardly endure : For first it will draw him so suddenly from his wind, that it will breed stopping in his body, and choaking up the passage of his breath, hazard the breaking of his Lungs, or the timme of his belly, as hath been many times seen in Horses of great mettall : Next, the horse being young and unacquainted with exercise, it will breed in him a weariness and loathing of his labour, and nothing is well done that it is not done with delight ; Lastly, the Horse being foul of body, and unpurged, it may melt his grease too soon, strain his sinews and tender gristles too much, and breed many diseases foul and incurable, of which only too violent labour is the groundwork.

Objections  
against swift  
Hounds.

To this objection I thus answer, that albeit the labour be for the time most violent, yet it is not of so long continuance as that which is more slow ; and to run twelve score swiftly, is not so painful, as to walk twenty miles, for you must understand that these swift Hounds out of their metal and swiftness do soon overshoot and runne beyond the scent, and then retiring back upon it again, give the Horse time to ease himself, and catch new breath ; whereas the slower dogs carrying the scent ever before them, keep your Horse to a continual labour, which is more painful, and makes him a tough enduring Lackey, but not a most swift running Gentleman : besides, the many faults and castings about of the swift dogs, add such a comfort unto the Horse, who perceiveth the strength of his labour to have no ease till he come up to those faults, that he will out of the willingness of his own nature, double his courage to pursue the most swift-

The answer.

swift, seeing his ease is ever the greater, by how much he keepeth ever nearer to the Hounds. For the danger of bursting, melting his grease, and other infirmities, the discretion of the Rider, and Skill of the Keeper must prevent, of whose Offices I have written largely in former Chapters in the Book called *Cheape and Good*: for be assured, those dangers may happen as well after the slowest dogs, as the swiftest.

Correction of  
swift Hounds  
haltc.

But to my purpose, since Hounds are the subject of my discourse: You shall understand that these swift Hounds are, as is before said, out of their haste, nimbleness and mettall, more subject to make defaults then other Hounds, yet full as curious and good of scent as any other, as you shall perceive by the quick knowledge and apprehension of their own errors, casting about of themselves, and recovering the scent, and so going away with the same, before any Huntsman can come in to help them: yet I would wish every Gentleman-like husband-man, in the composition of this Kennel, to have some staunch old dogs amongst them, which turning more soberly, yet close with them, may sit upon the scent, when they overshoot it; and so call them back, and give them their loss without more trouble. Also I would have both in this Kennel, and every other, a couple at least of good finders, being dogs staunch of mouth, and not able to open, except they lie upon a certain trayle; for these will be great furtherers of your sport, and make your younger dogs a great deal more mute and painful.

Of the high-  
way Hounds.

You shall also in this, and all other Kennels, have at least a couple of good high-way dogs, that is to say, Hounds of such cunning and perfect scent, that they will hunt as well upon a dry, hard, high-way (where you cannot pick forth passage of your Chase) as upon the freshest mould, or will hunt as truly through Flocks of Sheep or herds of Beasts, as upon the grounds where few or no Beasts come, these are called Hounds for the high-way or guides of the Kennel, and are exceeding necessary, and fit for all mens pleasure: for they take from the huntsman, both sence of pain, and anger.

The kennel  
for exercise of  
body.

Lastly, if you would compose a Kennel only for the exercise of your own body, or maintenance of health, you shall first draw into consideration your own ability, as whether  
you

you will make your exercise on foot, or horse back. If your delight and ability draw you to hunt on foot, then I would wish you to compose your Kennel of the biggest and slowest dogs you can get, respecting only cunning hunting, and depth of Mouth; and this Kennel that you make so staunch and obedient to your command, that when they are upon the hottest scent, or in the earnestness of the chase, to stop before them, and cast your hunting pole but before their eyes, they shall suddenly stop, and hunt after you in full cry; with no more speed then it shall please you to lead them; and then when you please, to let them go before you again, to pass away with the scent roundly, and without stay.

This manner of hunting will carry with it a twofold delight, the one of enjoying the musick of their voices, the other the cunning of their Noses: each striving to go before, yet none presuming without leave to go before; by this rule you shall bring the hottest scent, and coldest scent to one manner of swiftness, and so neither offend your body with too much nor too little exercise. But if you will take your exercise on Horseback, because infirmity will not let you run a foot, then you shall compose your Kennel of the slowest, or middle sized Hounds, who shall have both good mouths, and loud, and noses of the most ready scent, and perfect hunting: and if you bring these Hounds also to the former obedience of stopping and hunting after you, it will be exceeding good and delightful, both to your eyes, and ears, and so bring your Hounds to temperance and coolness in hunting, that taking the Frensie and greediness of haste from their minds, they will make your sport much longer, and less weary, then else it would be.

But some will answer me, that albeit they have infirmities, which detain them from running afoot, or labouring like Lackies or Drudges, yet they can endure ordinary and orderly walking, such as shall be fit for any moderate exercise, and therefore would hunt on foot: yet the great Hound they like not for two causes; first he is chargeable & troublesome in keeping & next his noisomness and pestering company in a house that is but streight, and of no more then of necessary use. To these I answer, that it is good for them to keep the little small Mitten-Beagle  
which

which may be companion for a Ladies Kirtle, and in the field will hunt as cunningly as any hound whatsoever only their mufick is very small, like reeds and their pace like their body : only for exercise, and not for slaughter.

Of the hounds  
kennel.

Having thus composed your Kennel of hounds according to the humor of your own fancy and delight, it shall be meet then that you frame a Kennell or house to keep them in, wherein they may lie dry, and have their food and other necessaries about them, without troubling your dwelling house, or giving offence by their greediness and ravening.

The situation  
of the kennel.

This Kennel for hounds, would be placed a pretty distance from your dwelling house, near some river, pond, spring, or other fresh water: it would also stand against the side of some bank or hill, which looking directly against the East, the morning Sun might rise upon the same, and not lose the sight of it till at least two or three hours after noon, which will be a great refreshing and comfort unto the hounds, which love naturally to stretch them, and pick themselves in the Sun : against the side of this hill, would be cut or digged, divers large and broad seats one above another, containing at least five foot in breadth, and two foot and a half in height, which seats would be either boarded or watted with stakes and small wands on the sides, to hold up the earth from falling, and also close boarded aloft ; whereon you shall lay fresh and sweet straw for your dogs to lye upon : the number of these seats would be according to the number of your hounds and the quality of the earth in largeness : over these seats would be made a close and well tiled shed, open to no way but upon the East, and in such manner that it may defend either all or most part of the seats from rain, wind or any tempest : from the lowest part of these seats forward, you shall make a large green court, being either walled, paled ; or otherwise very strongly fenced about, in which your hounds may play, sport, scummer, and do other offices of nature fit for their health : also in this court, in the most convenient corner of the same, you shall build a little house or lodge, with a spacious and large chimney in the same, wherein in the winter time you shall allow fire, before which your dogs returned (from hunting) may stretch, pick, dry and trim themselves, which is an exceeding



ing comfort unto them, and will make them more strong and able to endure their Labour, and also keep them wonderfully well both from the mangy and other filthy diseases which proceed from colds taken after violent heating. In this Chimny, your Huntsman shall have a large Cauldron, and other necessities, as Ladles, Skummers, and such like; for preparing and making ready of all such warm meat as you shall allow to them, which if it be sweet is called the Mange: if otherwise, Carrion or Garbage: above this lower Room shall be your Huntsmans Lodging, wherein he shall also keep his Couples, Liams, Collars, Trashes, Boxes & Pots with Salves and Oyntments, for the cure of such infirmities as shall happen amongst them, and all other necessities any way belonging to his office. In another part of the court, and neerest unto the house, you shall place Troughs and Tubs, some for their meat, and some for sweet Water; all which must be kept very neat and clean; and Water must by no means at any time be wanting, yet oft renewed, and the vessels scowred for sweetness sake, for the Huntsman ought to hold it for a Rule, that nothing bringeth more health than cleanness. Into this Kennel you shall by no means bring at any time Carrion, because it will make the place unsavory, and unfit for any Man of worth to look into, and sure it ought to be a place fit for every worthy Eye.

Now your Kennel being thus orderly, and well prepared, it is meet that I shew what meat is meetest for Hounds; how it shall be prepared, and how they shall be fed. First then, intending that I only speak of hunting Hounds, that is to say, Hounds which are in continual use & action, you shall understand that in their days of rest, the strongest and lustiest meat you can give them both for raising them up when they are low hunted, or for keeping them in strength when they have lust within them, is either horse-flesh newly slain and warm at the feeding, the intrals and garbage of Beasts (Lungs only excepted) or the heads, plucks, and bowels of Sheep, or generally any Carrion which is not old, nor cold after the death. To feed them for perfectness of hunting, and to keep their scents fine, pure and clean, or to purge the stench of the carrion out of their noses, that thereby they may undergoe the work with more cunning, the best food is to give them

Of Hounds.

C c

Mange,

Mange, made either of ground Oats, Barley Meale, Branne, or Mill-dust, well scalded and boyled together, or any of these two mixt together and scalded with beef broth, or any other broth in which flesh hath been sodden, so as it be not too extream Salt.

Now for the use and manner of feeding with these meats (as I said before) horse-flesh, garbage, and other carrion is only to breed strength, and lust in a hound, and is to be given only when a hound resteth; because the strength and smell of the same will so cloy and stop the hounds nostrils, that he can hardly distinguish, or undertake any fine scent, and so breed much hindrance to his hunting: Therefore you ought ever to feed your hounds at least the day before you hunt, if not more, with sweet meat.

Now for the manner of feeding with horse-flesh, or any other carrion, you shall be sure to have it a good distance from your Kenne!, and so as it may be no annoyance either to your own Neighbours, or travellers in the high Way; then first before your Hounds touch it, with your Knife take off the Skin, then open the body, take out the bowels and rip them; then, if the body be more then either hounds can, or must eat, take off a Leg, or a Shoulder; or such part as you think fittest to preserve, and lay it by; then let your hounds feed on the rest, till their bodies be well filled: which done draw your hounds home and upon some stange for the purpose, carry with you that which you saved; which as soon as you have shut up your hounds, you shall bear to the River, or fresh Water, and lay it in the same until you have occasion to use it; for it will keep it sweet a week or more at least, if need require.

Now for feeding with Mange, or sweet meat, it would ever be done the day before you hunt, and as it is to be prepared in the Kennel, so you shall let them eat it in troughs, within the Kennel, for that will make them take delight in the place; and this Mange must ever be given warm, and made somewhat thick, and if you white it over with milk, or Butter milk, and if you cast into it chippings, crusts of bread, bones, broken meat, or scraping of trenchers, it will be better, and they will eat it with more greediness.

If



If you have Hounds that are poor, weak or sickly, which you Meat for sick would suddenly recover and bring unto hunting : Then if you and weak take Sheeps heads, Wooll and all, and hack, hew and bruise them Hounds. in many pieces ; then boyl them with Oatmeal and Penny-royal and make strong pottage of the same, and give all together warm to your sick Hounds, and it will suddenly recover them; if once in a week also you give them a full meal of warm horse-flesh, it is very soveraign.

Now for the best times of feeding, it is held amongst all our Best hours of best experienc't Huntsmen, to be in the days of rest, early in the feeding. morning before Sun rise, and in the Evening at the Sun set: But in the days of hunting, you shall let them go fasting out of the Kennel and feed them as soon as you come home to the Kennel or before in your way homeward, if you have any horse-flesh, or other Carrion readily provided : otherwise with such meat as you have, so it will fill their bellies ; for a Hound by no means would be pinched of his belly after his labour, and therefore be sure if your meat be coarse to fill his guts well, if it be sweet, strong and comfortable, then less will serve him.

And here I think it meet to speak of a convenient propor- A proportion of Food, for the maintenance of a Kennel of good hounds: Where- of meat. in you shall understand that three bushels of Oats or Barley-meal, with half so much Branne or Mill dust, is a fit weekly proportion to keep nine or ten couple of Hounds ; with a little help of horse-flesh, if the Huntsman be any good Husband, and painful as ought to be in finding out Horses, scraps, crusts and bones which almost abound in every mans house of any worth or reckoning and by employing that which is saved in the days of labour to increase the proportion when need shall require : Many much larger quantities I have known, and do know allowed this day in divers places ; but I have held it an abuse to the Master and either a covetousness or negligence in the Huntsman, by whose unskilful greediness, I have seen many tyred out of the pleasures, Therefore be assured this quantity already named, will fully suffice, nay, even to please a most wanton curiosity; and surely much less, if a painful Huntsman have the government : for I shall never see fairer or better kept Hounds, then I have seen maintained with half this proportion ; but as I would not be too



lavish in my directions, so I would much less be too strait handed, hoping that every man of honesty and trust will order his affairs with discretion.

Ordering of  
Hounds after  
hunting.

Now for the ordering of your Hounds after they have done hunting, you shall, if you feed them abroad or otherwise, as soon as you bring them into the Kennel, wash all their feet either with a little warm Butter and Beer, Beef broth or Water wherein Mal-lows and Nettles have been boyled soft and tender, you shall pick every cley, and search the foot for Thorns, Stubs, or any other pricklings; you shall look that the straw whereon they lye, be sweet and fresh; and if it be in the strength of Winter after they are fed, you shall suffer them for an hour or two to beak and stretch themselves before the fire, ere they go to lye down for all night, and by no means trouble them as long as they lick, pick or trim themselves; but that once finished, you shall force them from the fire, and make them find out their Lodgings.

## CHAP. II.

*The curing of all manner of infirmities in Hounds.*

Of killing  
fleas and lice.

**N**Ext unto these precepts, it is meet you be skilful in-curing of all the diseases in Hounds, of which as there be many so here you shall partake many rules for the same, both perfect, and excellently approved by late experience. And first of all, in as much as it is an infirmity of all other most general, natural, and as it were not to be divided from Dogs, I will begin with the killing of fleas and lice, and such like vermine in Hounds which proceeds from filthy keeping, rotten and moist lodging, and want of shifting of straw when it grows short by much lying on; if then your Hound be troubled with fleas or lice, you shall take Rue or herb of Grace four or five handfuls, and boyl it in a gallon of running water till a pottle be full consumed, then strain it through a course cloath, and put to it two ounces of strong *Stavesaker* beaten to powder, and being warm, bath your Hound therewith and it will destroy them.

To kill worms.

If your Hound be troubled with worms, which is very general amongst them, especially the young Hounds, then you shall take a pint of new milk and mix it with a good quantity

tity of Brimstone, and so give it luke-warm unto the Hound, and it will not only scowr away all manner of wormes, but all other filthines bred in the body of a Hound, either by labour or surfeit.

If your Dogge have been bitten by either Snake, Adder, or any other venomous thing, take the herb Calaminth, and beat it in a mortar, with Turpentine and yellow Wax, till it come to a salve, and then apply it to the fore and it will heal it: Also if you boyl the herb in milk, and give the dog it to drink, it will expel all inward poyson.

Biting with  
venomous  
Beasts.

If your Hound have been bitten with a mad Dogge, which is a disease exceeding dangerous and mortal, you shall presently wash the place so bitten with Sea water or a very strong brine, and it will save and cure him; or else take the herb called Yarrow, and beat a handful thereof in a mortar, with a handful of Wheat till it come to a salve, and then lay it to the fore, and it will heal it: and if you pour into his stomach as much Mithridate as a hazel nut, dissolved in sweet Wine, it will wonderfully scour and preserve him from the infection of the inward poyson.

The infirmity of madness it self in Doggs, is common and oft to be seen, and though it be altogether incurable, yet if a man be experienced in the first signs or characters of madness, he may prevent divers mischeifs, and most mortal evils, which ensue for want of such knowledge, and albeit he lose one Dogge, yet he may save all the rest: the first sign therefore to know when a Dogge is entring into this disease, is a melancholy separating himself from other Dogges, and walking up and down alone, oft casting up his head into the Wind, and looking upward, his tayle at the setting on, rising upward, and the rest hanging down, his Mouth will foam and be full of slaver or white froth, as he runneth up and down he will hastily snatch at every thing that he meeteth with, yet, but only give one snatch and away, his eyes will be red and more fiery then other Doggs, and his breath will be strong and of a filthy savour: any of these signs when you shall perceive, you shall presently separate him from other Doggs and kill him, for unto the disease is no cure.

Of a mad dog  
and the signs.

If your Hound be gauld, or his Skinne torn in any part, you shall

Of Gauling.

shall only take *May* butter, yellow Wax, and a little unslackt Lime beaten together like a salve, there with anoint the fore place and it is a present cure.

Of a Tetter.

If your Hound (as they are much incident thereunto) have any Tetter or dry Scab, you shall take of black Ink, the juyce of Mints and Vinegar of each alike quantity, and mix them together with the powder of Brimstone till it be thick like a salve, and then anoint the Tetter therewith till it bleed, and it will soon kill and cure it.

For the Itch.

If your Hound be troubled with the Itch, you shall take Nervoyl, and beat it with quick-silver till the quick-silver be kill'd, and the salve turned to a pale yellow colour, then with the same anoint the Dog before a good fire, and chafe it well against the hair and it will cure him.

Of the mangy or scab.

But if your Hound be troubled with the Scab or mangy, then you shall take a penny-worth or two of the best Gun-powder you can buy, and mixing it with very strong Wine Vinegar, make it thick like puddle, then with the same anoint all the places where he scratcheth till they bleed, and it will kill the mangy; there be others which do use to cast their Doggs into the Lime-pits of Tanners or Glovers, and force them to swim up and down the same, and it will kill the mangy; yet there must be a great care taken in putting the Dogs in left, doing it rashly, the Lime water get into their eyes, which is very dangerous, and will hazard their burning out.

Of Wounds.

If your Hound shall receive any Wound, whether it be with sharp or blunt weapon, or any accident whatsoever, although his own Tongue be a sovereign salve, yet if it be in any part, where either he can or will not lick it, the best cure is to wash it with warm Butter and Vinegar mixt together, and then anoint it with a little Venice Turpentine; but if it be a hollow wound, and must of force be tented, then you shall either tent it with sweet Butter and Oat-meal, wrought together to a salve, or with yellow Wax and Deer-suet; there be some that will use for a tent a small candles end, and it is very good if the tallow be sweet; but if it be putrified then it will poyson and corrupt the wound.

Of a Canker in the Ear.

If your Hound be troubled with a canker in his ears, which is a grief much incident unto them; you shall first tent the hole  
if

if you find any, with dry cork, and after wash the fore with Vinegar and Allom, mixt together, till the flesh look raw, and after dry it with burnt Allom only.

If your Hound be surbaited, you shall wash his feet with Butter and Beer boyled together, and then bind to the soles of his feet young red Nettles, chopt very small, or beaten in a mortar till they come to a salve. Of surbaiting.

For any manner of bruise which shall happen to your Hound, either by rush, spurn, stroke or otherwise, if it appear and swell outwardly, you shall bath the place, with chick-weed and ground-sel, boyled in strong Ale dregs till they be soft, and it will allay the swelling: but if the bruise be inward, then you shall with a horn give the Dog a pint of new Milk, and a quarter of an ounce of *Sperma cati* well mixt together, or for want of *Sperma cati*, double so much *Stone-pitch* beaten to fine powder. Of Bruise.

If your Hound be troubled with the stone or other filthy matter, which maketh him that he cannot piss, you shall take the seeds of the Herb *Granium solis* or *Gromel*, and bruising them give them to the Hound in half a pint of white Wine. For the stone.

If your Hound (as it is natural to Doggs) be so costive that he can by no means skummer, you shall first take a peice or a tallow candle, about three fingers in length, and thrust it a good way into the tuel of the Hound, and then hold down his tayle hard a quarter of an hour or more, and then give it liberty, and when he hath emptied his belly, you shall give him to drink five or six spoonfulls of Sallet Oyl, and it will cleanse him sufficiently. For costiveness.

If your Hound be troubled with any disease in his Ears, whether it be a continual running, or any other Impoſthumation, you shall take Verjuyce and Chervile Water, and mix them together and each morning and evening drop a spoonful or two thereof into the Dogges Ears, and you shall find it a present Remedy. For any disease in the Ear.

If your Dog at any time be troubled with sore eyes, of what Nature or Quality soever the grief be: you shall take a leafe or two of ground Ivy, and chewing it well in your Mouth, and sucking out the juyce, spit the same into the Dogges eyes morning and evening, and it will cure them. This ground Ivy is a little, round, rough, jaggy leaf, and grows in the bottome of hedges. For sore Eyes.

If

If your Hound shall happen to break a legge or any other bone, you shall first with your hand place it in his true place, and see that it stand streight and even, then bath it in the warm Oyl of Swallows, or the Oyl of *Mandrake* apples, and wrap it about two or three times, in sear-cloth made of yellow Wax and Deers suet; which done, splent it with flat splents of wood, and forle it with it with a strong roler, and let it so rest nine days at least, before you unsplent it, but remove not the sear-cloth for fifteen days, and you shall see the bone will knit strongly and firmly.

### CHAP. III.

*Of the breeding of all manner of Hounds.*

**H**AVING thus passed over the election of Hounds, composition of Kennels, dieting, and curing of all sorts of diseases, I now meetest now to follow with some short precepts the breeding of Hounds, because it is exceeding hard, for any man to have a Kennel of Hounds from gift or purchase without much imperfection: for though one friend give you a good Hound, another sells you a good Hound, yet how their goodneses will agree when they run together, is very disputable: and truly unless your Hounds have one speed, one tuneableness of voyce, and one manner of hunting, your pastime will be much disorderly; which there is no way to get so easily and truly, as by the breeding of your hounds: for one and the same birth produceth one and the same qualities; therefore having a Hound and a bratch of that size, voyce, speed, scent, proportion, and general goodness which agreeth best with your own nature and condition, you shall put them together to ingender and breed, either in *January*, *February* or *March*, according as they shall grow proud, for those are the three most principal moneths in the year for Hounds, bitches or bratches, to be limed in: not but that they may conceive and bring forth as good Whelps in other moneths, but because there will be much loss of time in the entring of them: for if a bratch be limed in *January*, she will whelp her Litter in *March*, and so they will be ready to enter in the first beginning of hunting-time: if she be Limed in *February*, she will whelp in *April*, and if she be Limed in *March*

Hounds must  
use one ano-  
ther.

The moneths  
to breed in.



*March*, she will whelp in *May* following : and in all these three Moneths there is not a dayes losse, for the entring of the whelps ; which is an especial care to be observed of Huntsmen.

Also if you shall let your Hounds ingender in the three months  
aforesaid, you shall not forget to observe as near as you can, that  
when you put the Dog and Bitch first together, the Moon be  
either in the sign *Aquarius* or *Gemini* ; for it is held amongst  
the best Hunts-men of this Land, that the whelps which are  
ingendred under those two signs, will never run mad ; and for  
the most part, the Litter will have at least double so many Dog-  
whelps, as Bitch Whelps. When your Bitch is near whelping,  
or hath whelped, you shall separate her from other Hounds, and  
have a private Kennel for her, where she may be alone without  
company of other hounds ; and you shall duly every night see her  
kennel'd in the same, that she may take acquaintaunce and delight  
therein ; and when you feed her particularly, you shall feed her  
in that kennel, that taking a love thereto she may not seek out  
other unfit and unwholesome places to whelp in : for where a  
Bitch first whelpeth her Litter, if they be removed, she will not  
leave carrying her Whelps up and down, till she have found the  
same place again, or some other perhaps more unfit then the for-  
mer, and such carriage of Whelps by the Dam is very ill and dan-  
gerous : this kennel where your Whelps shall remain, shall not  
be kept close ; but open, that the Bitch may have liberty to go up  
and down after twenty four hours space, which time she shall be  
kept very well, close and warm, that she may perform the natu-  
ral office of a Dam to her Whelps.

Under which  
signs to breed.

Ordering of  
Bitches after  
Whelping.

You shall not suffer your Whelps to suck above two moneths  
at the most, but then you shall Wean them, and if the house you  
keep be of great receipt and many servants, you shall let your  
Cook bring up your best Whelps, and your Dairy-maid your se-  
cond best, and the rest you shall put forth amongst your friends,  
or Tenants, according unto the love you possess in the Coun-  
trei.

When to wean  
Whelps.

Now when your Whelps are brought up, you shall not enter  
them into hunting before they be at least a year and half old, as  
thus,

When to enter  
Whelps.

thus, if your Whelps were whelped in *March*, then you shall not enter them until *September* come twelve moneths after : and if they were whelped in *April*, then you shall enter them in *October* come twelve moneths after. And so forth, for the rest of the moneths.

How to enter  
Whelps.

Now for the manner of your entring of Whelps, you shall draw them abroad in the pleasantest of the day, with the most staunch and best hunting Hounds you have, leaving at home all babling and flying Curs ; and if you can, you shall have your Hare ready set before you come, (for the Hare is the principal chase you can enter Whelps upon) and then putting her from her form, and veiwing perfectly which way she taketh, after the scent is a little cooled, lay on your Hounds, and give them all the advantages you can for the hunting of her, as by wind, veiwing, hollow, or pricking her passage : and if they shall chance to kill her ; you shall immediately take her from the Hounds, and not suffer them to break her, for it is an evil custome, but your self stripping away the Skin, shall cut her all to pieces, and give every part of her to your young Whelps, which will breed in them great courage and delight in hunting.

Observations  
in the entring  
of Whelps.

You shall observe in the entring of your young Whelps, that they hunt fair and even, without advantage, or seeking any way to gain ease, as by lying off from scent, thwarting or crossing when they are behind to get even with the foremost Hounds : any of which when you shall perceive, you shall immediately beat them in with your hunting pole, and compel them to take the scent before them : also if any of them be giddy headed, and out of mettle will run before the other Hounds clean from the scent, in this case also you shall beat them soundly back, and bring them back to the scent, and force them to take it with the rest of the Kennel. Also if any young Hound will not strike upon a default but run babling away without the scent, drawing away the rest of the Kennel to follow him ; in this case also you shall scourge him back, and compel him to stand and labour upon the default, till some of the elder Hounds undertake it, then you shall cherish all both with horn and voyce into the Chase

Lastly, if you find that any of your young Whelps traist more



to his own Icent than to the rest of his fellows, and so by that means hunteth at least twenty foot sometimes behind the rest, making his defaults by his own nose, and not their own leading, yet hunteth very just and true : In this case you shall by no means over-go or over-ride the Whelp, but give him all comfort and encouragement you can, and let him take his own time and leisure, for use and experience will quickly make him Skillful, and the Skill will soon carry him up, among his fellows where hee will soon become a principal Leader : and thus much for Hounds, and the composition of Kennels.

## CHAP. IIII.

*Of all the severall Chases which Hounds are to hunt.*

**T**Here hath already (by many well experienced men) been so much written of this Subject, that I know not well what to write, except I should in some sort repeat another mans tale : from which I am so far different (having vowed to my self, by no means to meddle with any thing formerly written) that the strictest examiner whosoever, shall not find me guilty of the least blemish therein : yet since I must necessarily in this case write something, I will as breifly as I can set down some material and special notes, and for the main substance if they desire a long continued circumstance (though this is sufficient for any understanding wit) referre them unto old *Tristram's* book, translated by Mr. *Turbervile*, and such other Books, where they may find compleat satisfaction.

To speak then first of the Stagge, which is the most Princely and royal Chase of all Chases, and for whom indeed this Art of Hunting was first found out, and invented : he is of all Beasts the goodliest, stateliest, and most manly, and for the use Man, the fullest both of outward and inward profit as in his flesh for the nourishment of Mans body, and in his other Members for helps in Physick : as the bone in his Heart, which is Sovereign for all inward faint sicknesses, for Poyson, the Plague, and hard Travail in women ; his blood excellent for all kind of Fluxes,

The hunting  
of the Stagge.

and to make the Skin white and smooth ; his pizle good for the Colick and Bloody-flux ; His Horn a most soveraign Cordial against venome ; his suet for swellings, Gouts and Humors, and his Skin, which is ever a during and Gentlemanly clothing ; and of Stags, the oldest and greatest is the best.

How to know  
an old Stag.

The perfect sign to know an old Stagge by, are these ; if when you take his view upon the ground, you see he hath a large foot, a thick heele, and a deep printing, and open cleft, and a long space ; then be assured he is old : also if his legge be long, and his bone thick, it shewes age, besides your old Sagge doth not over-reach, when your younger Deer doth : also you shall know his age by his ordure, as thus if it be printed ( as it will be from *July* to *August* ) or writhen round, or flat or broad, as it will be in *June*, and therewithal be gross and fatty, then he is an old Stagge ; but if contrarily it be small and dry, then he is but a young Deer : you shall know his age by the tines of the hornes, for if he have ten or twelve or fourteen tines, he is a Deer of reasonable age, but if the beam bee thick and great, then hee is an old Deer ; so if hee carry but some six or eight tines, and a small beam, then he is young Deer, and not above three or four years old, for the Red Deer is said the first year to have no head, the second but only daggers, and the third tines.

The cast of  
Heads.

Stags yearly cast their Heads in *March*, *April*, *May* or *June*, and in no other moneths, according to the goodness of the Soil wherein they feed, for the richest ground beareth ever the earliest Deer, and a Deer is never said to be in season, nor may hee by good rule be hunted till he have cast his head.

How to find a  
Deer.

The principal quality in a Husbandman, is, to know how and where to find a Deer ; for if he be ignorant in their haunts, hee may wander long, and lose much labour. Therefore hee shall know, that a Red Deer naturally haunteth in *November* amongst Furts, Whins or thick Shrubs ; In *December* amongst thick and strong woods. In *January* in Corn-fields of Wheat and Rye, In *February* and *March* amongst young and thick bushes ; In *April* and *May* in Coppices and Spring ; In *June* and *July* in out-woods, and parlews which are nearest unto green Corn,  
and

and in *September* and *October*, after the first showers of rain they go to Rut.

Now when the Huntsman will at any time search any of these places to find his game, hee must bee careful by no means to go downe, but up the wind; for a Deer is of most dainty scent, and upon the least fault will fly and leave his feed: therefore hee must come warily and closely with a quick ear, and a ready eye.

Now the best time to find out your Game, is early before The hunting Sunne rise, at which time the Deer goeth to his food: from of the Stag. whence you shall watch unto his Leir, and having lodged him, you may returne home and prepare all things for the days hunting; for be assured, except violently compeld, he will not stir until Evening.

Now for the manner of his hunting: you shall first cast off your finders, neer his place of lodging, and after they have hunted him about a ring or two, you shall cast in the rest of your Hounds, and being in full cry and main chase, you shall give them comfort both with horne and sight of the Deer, and take what especial notes or marks you can from him, so that as much as is possible you may know him from any other Deer: then at every default, as soon as the Hounds are in cry again, you shall make in to the hunted Deer, and view him, and if you find it to bee a fresh Deer, you shall rate the Dogs, and bring them back to the default, and there make them cast about again, until they have undertaken the first hunted Deer, then give them comfort by hollowing and Giblets, and so continue the chase till you have either set up the Deer or slain him, ever and anon having a watchful eye unto change: for it is the nature of a Deer, when he is once imboft or weary, to seek where he may find another Deer, and to beat him up and lay himself down in his place.

To know when a Stagge is weary, you shall see him imboft, To know when a Stag is weary. that is, foaming and flavering about the Mouth with a thick white froath, his Hair will look black, shining and foul with sweat, and hee will tappish oft, that is, he will ever and anon be lying down and lurking in dark holes and corners, and for his last

Re-

Refuge hee will betake himself to the soyl, which is, hee will leape (if he can) into Rivers, Ponds, or other Water, out of which you shall force him either by art or strength : And thus much for the Chase or hunting of the Stag.

Of the Buck.

Now for the hunting of the Buck : forasmuch as they are most usually kept in parks, and that every Keeper, which is worthy to be a Keeper, may sooner from his own experience then from any Reading, get the experience of the ground he tendeth, and sith hee is bound both by the Laws of Huntsmen and good manners, to give every man contentment, that is priviledged to hunt in his ground : And sith whosoever can hunt a Stag well, cannot hunt a Buck ill, the Red Deer being ever far more curious to hunt, then the Fallow, I will not spend any more time to write of it, but referre you to those Rules which are already Reherfed.

Of the Hare.

Touching the hunting of the Hare, which is every honest Mans, and good Mans chase, and which is indeed the freest, readiest and most induring pastime, and likewise in it's own kind, full of good profit for Mans preservation : For though the Beast be but little, yet are the members worth injoyment, as the flesh, which is good for all manner of Fluxes ; the Brains good to make children breed their teeth with ease ; the Wool excellent to staunch blood ; the Gall soveraign for sore eyes ; the blood which will kill Rheum and Worms ; the stifling bone, which being worn, taketh away the pain of the Cramp, with many other good things besides.

Of her profits.

The hunting of the Hare.

Touching the hunting of the Hare, you are first to regard the place of hunting, as whether it be in Woods or Champain : if in Woods, you shall not cast off your dogs in the thickest of the covert, but rather beat the bush close or shrubby ground near adjoining to the covert : for though in the Woods you may sooner find a Hare ; yet commonly you shall find such change therewithal, that you shall hardly bring any forth worth your pleasure, where, on the contrary part, if you find any in those neighbouring grounds, she will presently fly forth into the champain : because naturally a Hare will refuse the covert, till shee begin to be weary ; and a Hare being once heated, is not so easily lost,

Where to find Hares.

lost, upon a fresh change, as when the scents are of equal coolness. If you hunt in the champain, you shall first beat those places which are most likely, as where Gorse or Whinnes grow, or in grounds that are all tusks of rushes, short ling, bramble bushes, or suchlike: or if the champain be more plain and void of such places, then you shall at the beginning of the year repair to the shrubs, about Christmas to the fallows and in *March* to the green Corn; for those are the most usual haunts for the best Hares, and in all these places you shall regard the Form or Hares seat well, and know whether it be old or new, as if the Form be plain and smooth within, the pad before it flat and worn, and the prickles so new, and easie to be seen, that the earth appear black, and as it were presently broken, then is the Form new, and if the Hounds call upon it, then may you hunt from thence, and upon the trail recover that Hare: but if the Form look old and rough within, and the pad it self be not smooth, nor any prickles to be discerned therein, then it is old, and if the Hounds call upon it, you shall rate them, for the scent is old, and all the labour will be lost you spend upon it.

The knowledge  
of the Hares  
Form.

The next thing you observe must be the shifts and sleights of the Hare, when she is wearily hunted, as her doublings and windings, and at every default give the Hounds leisure enough and compass enough in the casting about of your rings for the unwinding of the same, then you shall observe her leaps and Skips before she squat, and beat all those places very curiously which are likely to give her any harbour, and though the loss seem never so dangerous, yet not to be discouraged, but to continue your search, because when she cometh to those hard shifts she is at the last cast, and cannot stand long before the Hounds. Many other circumstances there are, but they are so generally known to almost every man that any way affecteth this pleasure, that it is needless to make further relation thereof; and therefore I hold this sufficient for the hunting of the Hare.

The Hares  
sleights and  
shifts.

Now for the hunting of the Fox or Badger, they are chases of a great deal less use, or cunning then any of the former, because they are of much hotter scent, as being intituled stinking scents and not sweet scents, and indeed very few Dogs but will hunt them with

The hunting  
of the Fox  
or Badger.

with all eagerness; therefore I will not stand much upon them, but advise you to respect well their haunts and coverts, which commonly is in Woods and bushy places, and to take knowledge of their earths & Kennels, & as near as you can when you go about to hunt them, to stop up their Kennels, and keep them out that fling forth, that they may be sooner brought to their destruction; the chase is profitable and pleasant for the time, inasmuch as there are not so many defaults, but a continuing sport; yet not so much desired as the rest, because there is not so much art and cunning; and thus much for chases, and the general use of all kind of hunting,

*The end of Hunting.*

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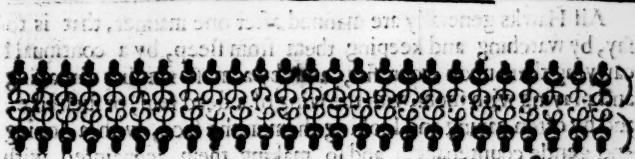
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## Of Hawking

### CHAP. V.

#### Of Hawking, with all sorts of Hawks, and the whole

##### Art thereof.

**I**F your English Husband-man shall for his Recreation, chuse the pleasure of Hawking, which is a most Principely and serious delight; he shall understand that all Hawks are divided into two kinds, the long winged Hawk, and the short; the long winged Hawks which are meet for our Husbandmans recreation, are the *Falcon gentle*, and her *Tercel*; the *Gerfaulcon* and her *Genkin*; the *Saker*, the *Lanner*, the *Barbarie Faulcon*, the *Mellican*, and the *Hobby*; and the short winged Hawks, are the *Goshawk*, the *Tercel* of the *Goshawk*, the *Sparrowhawk*, and the *Musket*.

Kinds of  
Hawks.

The *Falcon gentle*, which is the principall of *Hawks*, may be made either for the field or river, and will fly at the Partridge, or at the Mallard; the *Gerfaulcon* will fly at the Heron; the *Saker* at the Crane or Batein; the *Lanner* will fly at the Partridge, Pheasant or Chooft; the *Barbarie Faulcon* at the Partridge only; the *Mellican* and the *Hobby* at the Lark, or any small Bird whatsoever; the *Goshawk* or *Tercel* of *Goshawk*, at the Partridge, Pheasant or Hare; the *Sparrowhawk* at the Partridge or Black-bird, and the *Musket* at the Bush only; and all these Hawks are hardy, meek, and loving to the man.

The flight of  
Hawks.

The manning  
of Hawks.

All Hawks generally are manned after one manner, that is to say, by watching and keeping them from sleep, by a continual carrying them upon your fist, and by a most familiar stroaking and playing with them, with the wing of a dead fowl, or such like, and by often gazing and looking them in the face, with a loving and gentle countenance, and so making them acquainted with the man.

Of Luring  
Hawks.

After your Hawks are manned, you shall bring them to the Lure by easie degrees, as first, making them jump unto the fist, after fall upon the Lure, then come to the voice, and lastly, to know the voice and Lure, so perfectly, that either upon the sound of the one, or sight of the other, she will presently come in, and be most obedient which may easly be performed, by giving her reward when she doth your pleasure, and making her fast when she disobeyeth: short-wing'd hawks shall be called to the fist only, and not to the Lure; neither shall you use unto them, the loudnesse and variety of voice, which you do to the long winged Hawks, but only bring them to the fist by chirping your lips together, or else by the whistle: And in this manner of Luring, and calling of hawks, (for short-winged hawks are said to be called, and not Lured) you shall specially acquaint your hawk with three things: First boldnesse and acquaintance with men, dogs and horses; then that she be eager and sharp set before the Lure be shewed her, knowing both the morning and evening hours of her luring: and lastly, to delight her the more with the Lure, to have it ever garnished on both sides with warm and bloody meat.

The Bathing  
of Hawks.

When your Hawks are thoroughly manned and lured, and are come to the height of flesh and good lust, you shall then spy out a fair day when the weather and air is most temperate, and carry your hawk to some fair, little, shallow, sandy, running brook, or Rundle, where the water is quiet and still, and where your hawk may stand up to the mid thigh therein, and having prickt her down, and made her fast hard by the verdge thereof, you shall take off her hood, and go a little way from her, and see whether she will bathe therein: but if you find her fearful of the water, you shall with a little stick paddle in the water a while before

before her, and then depart from her again, and let her then bathe therein as long as she pleaseth: this done, you shall take her upon your fist, and give her a bit or two of meat; then hold her in the Sun, and let her pick, prune, and dry her self again: if you cannot come to any River, Brook, or Rundle conveniently, then you should provide either a large bason, or a broad, shallow tub, and so in it let your hawk bathe as oft as occasion shall serve, for this bathing giveth a hawk courage, boldnesse and a great appetite, and would commonly be used the day or morning before any flight, If it be in the winter that your hawk batheth, when no Sun shineth, you may then dry her as well by the gentle air of the fire as otherwise.

To enfeame your Hawk, which is to cleanse her from grease, Of enfeaming, fat and glut, which lieth inwardly in her body, and which you giving, casting shall know by her round thighs, her flesh, and full mewtings, and scouring. then when you feed her in the morning, give her a bit or two of hot meat, and the night following little or nothing; then morning and evening after, feed her upon the flesh of a Rook washt in two waters, till you feel the pinions of her wings more tender then they were before, then give her casting according to her nature, as was before shewed, and once in two or three dayes give her a hens neck well jointed and washt in water, which will by the sharpnesse thereof break the kels and filmes of fat which are in her body; then every morning you shall give her a quick train Pidgeon, and keep her so long upon her wing, that by her own moderate exercise, she may melt and dissolve the grease that molestheth her, which after it is broken, you may take away, by giving her three or four pellets of the root of Sellandine, as big as garden pease, well washt and scoured; and if you steep those pellets in the syrup of Roses, the scouring is much stronger.

When your Hawk is manned, lured, and enfeamed, you shall then bring her to her flight, which if it be at the Pheasant or Partridge in woody and close grounds, then you shall when Of flying at the Pheasant or Partridge. you lure the hawk, cast your lure into some low Tree or Bush, that thereby you may bring her to take the stand; which when she doth, you shall then draw out your lure, and giving her notice thereof, make her seize thereon, and ever feed her on

the ground, and under a bush, the practice whereof will bring her to delight in the stand, and to mark all the advantages which she shall get from thence; then, bringing her to either Pheasant or Partridge, make her fly at a young one first, that being more foolish and easier slain, she may take delight in her conquest. But if you fly any long winged Hawk in the champain, then you shall by all means possible keep her from the stand, and only maintain her upon her wing, till you spring the Partridge underneath her, and then stooping upon the advantage, the prey can hardly escape her: yet for the more sure killing of the game, and entring of young Hawks, you shall first spring the Partridge and mark them, then being come to the mark, cast off your Hawk, and when she is gotten to the height of her gate, lay in your Spannels, and then retrieving the Partridge underneath her after the first flight, it is impossible she should escape: And in this sort you may fly all manner of long-winged Hawks, for it is not proper to flie them from the fist, although most of our late Faulconers now adays use it; but for your short-winged Hawks, you shall fly them from the fist only: And therefore to make them hardy and valiant, you shall first enter them at an old field Partridge, laid in a hole, and covered either with a sodde, board or hat, at which you shall fasten a small Creance, and then uncoupling your Spannels, as they are ranging about, suddenly, when your Hawks head is towards the Partridge, pluck off the sodde or hat, and let the train go, and the Hawk after it, which as soon as she hath slain, reward her very well, and thus doing twice or thrice, you may after venter to fly her at your pleasure.

Of flying at  
fowls.

Te make your Hawk fly at fowl, which is called the flight at the River, you shall first whistle off an approved well quarried Hawk that is a sure killer, and let her enew the fowl so long, till she bring it to the plunge: then take her down and reward her, and set her by, yet so as you may have her ready to use at your pleasure, then whistle off your young Hawk, and when she is at the height of her gate, and that you have shewed her water divers times to make her the more inward, and by a gibbet called her in, when at any time she hath looked out. Then being just over the fowl, make in with all your company on every side the River,

River, and so lay forth the fowle, which if your Hawk stoop, strike, and trufs, you shall presently make into her, and help her, and then crossing the fowles wing, or breaking them, let your Hawk take her pleasure thereon; but if she do not slay the fowle at the first stooping, then you shall give your Hawk pleasure to recover her gate again, and then lay forth the fowle as before, not leaving thus to do till you have landed it, and that the Hawk hath slain it, and then reward her as aforesaid: But if such a mischeif shall fall out that the fowle do escape and break away; then you shall be sure to have a little Mallard ready in your bag, which you may cast forth, and so reward your Hawk thereon.

If your long winged Hawk flying at the River, or in champain fields, use to take stand, which is a foule fault, you shall first by all means shun flying neer Trees or Covert: but if that do suffice, then you shall have divers trains in divers mens hands, and when the Hawk offers to go to the stand, let him which is next her cast out his train, and she kill it, reward her: this doing once or twice will reclaim her or nothing.

If your Hawk through pride of grease or otherwise, be forward and coy, you shall not when she kills, reward her as you were wont, but conveying some other cold meat cunningly under her, let her take her pleasure thereon, and ever with the meat give her some feathers which may scower her, and make her to cast, for this will recover her stomach, and make her more careful and diligent.

If your Hawk be of a wild and stirring nature, and will not look inward towards the man with her head, but rake and gaze after every check, neither respecting whooping or gibbeting, in this case you must follow her and lure her back, and as soon as she turneth in her head, shew her the lure, to which if she stoop, then presently reward her; and thus do so oft as she rangeth, till she be brought unto that Love to your voyce and affection to the Lure, that she will forget her other extravagant thoughts.

When your Hawk is brought to fly to an extraordinary high pitch, to maintain and keep her in the same manner of flying still, you shall not flie her above one flight in a day at the most; for

Helps for  
faults in long  
winged Hawks,  
and first of  
the stand.

Against forwardness.

To make a  
hawk look inward.

for nothing bringeth her down more then over wearinesse : Also you shall not then keep too extream a straight hand upon her, for too much greedinesse of the Quarry makes her slacke her flying. Also, you shall not flie her upon Rundles, or small brooks, but upon plashes and broad Rivers ; you shall not suffer her to flie too long, but after two or three stoopings, and a crossing, although she misse it, take her down with the Lure or train, and reward her, for this encouragement will maintain her in her goodnesse.

To bring  
hawks upward.

If your hawk be high flying, yet sloathful to go to her Gatte, or else now and then stooping before there be cause, and so losing her way, which many times happeneth when either the hawk is kept too sharp, or flown out of her due time ; any of which faults when you perceive, you shall then upon the doing thereof give her a dead Quarry, and then hood her up without reward, and an hour or two after, call her to the Lure, and feed her: and thus do as oft as she offendeth : yet for the more sure prevention thereof, I would have every Faulconer to try the naturall disposition of his hawk, and find whether she flyeth better on a streight hand, or an open, and whether early or late, and so forth, and according to her own nature, ever to keep her.

Faults in short  
winged hawks,  
first of turning  
tayl.

Short winged Hawks, as *Goshawks* and *Sparrow-hawks*, will many times neither kill their Game, nor flie their Game to mark ; but will give it over after a little flying, and (as Faulconers term it) turn tail to it, which when you see, you shall incourage your dogs to hunt and cast before your hawk a train Partridge, as it were the wild one, and make her seize it, and feed well upon it, to encourage her the better, and thus do twice or thrice, which if you see it prevail not, then esteem her not, but make her away, for she will hardly ever be reclaimed.

If a Hawk will  
not flie at all.

Hawks that have never been acquainted with prey, will many times not flie at all ; but taking a tree, will sit and look after the game, which fault to amend, you shall ever feed her upon quick Birds, and make her foot them, and then going into the field, which is champaine and plain, after you have rid up and down a pretty space with the hawk unhooded, you shall cause one of your company to cast out a field Partridge before your hawk. Then  
let



let her flie at it, and so soon as she hath footed it, let her feed thereon at her pleasure, and do thus three or four times, till she be well in blood, and you shall find her valiant quickly.

If your hawk be so fond of the man, that she will not flie from him, but after a stroke or two, return to him again; you must then <sup>Too much</sup> but seldom be familiar with her, and let her rather feed her selfe <sup>fondnesse of</sup> the man. then be fed by you, and as oft as she commeth so improperly unto you, you shall give her no reward; but when she forsaketh you, and killeth the game, then you shall well reward her, and then make her both familiar with men, dogs, and horses; for to take joy or dislike to any of them, is a mischief a great deal worse then the former.

To speak of the mewing of long winged hawks, you shall <sup>Mewing of</sup> understand that she may be set down, that is, put into the mew <sup>long winged</sup> about the middle of *April*, at which time if you find they have <sup>Hawks.</sup> any lice, you shall pepper them, and put them into the Mew, which if it be a low place upon the ground free from noise, vermine, or any evill air, then it is called mewing at the stone or stock, but if you mew in any high room with open windowes towards the *North*, or *North-east*, then it is called mewing at large: If you mew at the stock, you shall have a broad Table in <sup>Mewing at the</sup> the midst of the room, on which you must place sand, gravel, stone, stone, sods, and tubs for water, and in the midst of these a free-stone or block of two foot high, to which you shall fasten your hawk with a turvell of iron, so that at no time her leafe may be intangled; this manner of mewing may be in the Faulconers own bed-chamber, or in any other safe room at his pleasure; the best meat in the mew is any quick birds or fowl, dogs flesh, and such like: If you mew your hawk at large, you shall put her loose into the mew, having sundry pearches therein, some high, some <sup>Mewing at</sup> low for her use to sit on; and in this mew also you shall have <sup>large.</sup> sand, stones, gravel, green sods, and water, all which you shall renew as oft as need do require, and in the midst of them a block or two, whereon to tie her meat, which meat shall be the same formerly spoke of, and given at certain and due times, without fail or alteration.

If you intend to mew a short winged hawk, as the Goshawk, or such like, you shall in *March* after you have scowred her, and made



made her clean from lice, cut off her the lesse, and throw her into Mew loose, either in a high room or a low room at your pleasure; let her Perches be lined with canvass; or with woollen lists for the safety of her feet; let her have store of water for bathing, land oft renewed, and store of meat; as live Pigeons, warm Mutton, warm Goat, or Dogs-flesh, any of which will make her mew quickly.

When to draw  
hawks.

Hawks for the field would be drawn from the mew in *June*, and made ready to flie in *August*; at which time Corn is cut, and Game is strong: and hawkes for the River would be drawn in *August*, that they may be ready to flie in *September*.

Diseases in  
hawks.

Hawkes have divers infirmities and diseases, as Feavers, Palesey, Imposthumes, sore eyes, and Wares, Megrim, Pantas, casting her Gorge, foulness of Gorge, Wormes, Fillanders, ill Liver, or Gout, Pinnie in the foot, breaking the pounce, Bones out of joint, Bones broken, Bruises, Lice, Colds, Frounce, Fistulaes, Stone, much gaping, more foundring, privy evill, taint in the Feathers, loss of appetite, broken wind; blow on the Wiag, wounds, swelling, eating their own feet, taking up of veins in Hawks, Cramp, and a world of others: all which forasmuch as I have shewed the Medicines, and cures thereof in the former Treatise called *Chap and Good*, I will refer you unto the same, and not doubt but it will give you satisfaction.

## CHAP. VI.

### *Of Courting with Grey-hounds, and the Excellencies of that Sport.*

Of courting  
with Grey-  
hounds.

**N**OW if the mind of our Husbandman be not so generally taken with the delight and pleasure of this recreation of Hawking, but that he preferreth before it the delight of Courting with Grey-hounds, which is a very noble and worthy pastime, he shall in it observe these four things, the Breed of Grey-hounds, their shipe, their diet, and the Lawes belonging to the same.

Breeding of  
Greyhounds.

Touching the breed of Grey-hounds, you are principally to respect the Countries in which they are bred, and nourished

rished, as that it be a Champion Plain, and without covert, where a Hare may stand forth, and endure a course of two miles, or more, as it shall happen (for the coursing of a hare is that which I purpose most to treat of) because in a close Country full of covert, where a hare cannot run above a quarter of a mile, or less, both the pleasure of the recreation is taken away, and the Grey-hound by an insufficient exercise is made unapt, and unfit for that for which he was created.

Now of Champion Countries, they are of three kinds, as the Best places for low Valleys, such are the Valleys of *Belvoire*, the Vale of *White* breed. *Horse*, the Vale of *Evesham*, and such like; the high Downs and Heaths, as about *Salisbury*, *Cicester*, *Lincoln*, and many such like places; and the middle between both, as the Country of *Northampton* and *Leicester*, and other like them: All which are very Grey-hounds. The best excellent places for the breeding and training up of the best Grey-hounds; yet of the three your Valleys or middle soyles, which for the most part are arable Grounds, are much better to breed and train on, then your Downs and Heaths, because they are much more laboursome, rough, heavy, and in the Winter season full of much trouble and false foot-hold, insomuch, that a dog which is able to run strongly, swiftly, and surely there, must necessarily do it ten times better when he comes to the smooth, plain, and carpet-like down: where on the contrary, the dogge which is trained upon those even Downs, though he be right famous and excellent, when he comes to run in the deep well plowed Field, is to seek where to bestow his feet, and can neither shew speed, cunning nor endurance.

Now the Gentlemen which dwell on the Downs and plain Grounds, to maintain the reputation of their dogs, affirm them to be much more nimble and cunning in turning, then the Vale dogs be, because the fairness of the Earth giveth them so much advantage over the hare, that having her even (as it were) in a manner under their feet, she is put more to her shifts, and strives with greater art of sleights to deceive, and get advantage of the Grey-hound. And it is true, for by reason of the advantage of their Hills, which are great and steep, though smooth and plain, I have seen a Vale-dog so much deceived, that upon a turn, he hath lost more ground then hath been recoverable in the whole

F f

course

course after : but there is no want of goodnesse, but a little skill, which a moneths coursing will bring a dog so sufficiently unto, that he will not need any other reformation, then the knowledge of his error, by his loss of labour. So that I conclude the good dog upon the deeps, will ever beat the good dogs on the plain.

Difference be-  
tween Deggs  
and Bitches.

It is an old received opinion amongst many men of the Leash, that the Grey-hound Bitch will ever beat the Grey-hound dog, by reason of her more nimbleness, quickness and agility : And it is sometimes seen, that a perfect good Bitch indeed, hath much advantage of an ordinary dog : but if the good dog meet with the good Bitch, there is then no comparison but the dog will be her Master; in as much as he exceedeth her both in length and strength, the two main helps in coursing ; for her nimbleness is then no help : sith a good dog in the turn, will lose as little ground as any bitch whatsoever.

Dogs and Bit-  
ches for breed.

Yet thus much I would persvade all Gentlemen of the Leash to be very careful in their breeding, to breed upon the best Bitches they can provide ; for it is found in experience, that the best dog upon an indifferent Bitch, will not get so good a whelp, as an indifferent Dog upon the best Bitch. And amongst these Observations in breeding Grey-hounds, you shall observe to have your Dogs and Bitches of equal and indifferent ages, as about three or four years old at the most ; but in case of need, your Bitch will endure a great deal longer then your Dog, and to breed with a young dog, or an old bitch, may bring forth an excellent Whelp.

The shapes of  
Greyhounds.

Touching the shapes of Grey-hounds (from whence you shall take the best collections for their goodnesse) they are certain and most infallible : Therefore touching Grey-hounds, when they are Puppies or young Whelps, those which are most raw-bon'd, lean, loose made, fickle or crooked hought, and generally unknit in every member, are ever likely to make the best dogs, and most shapely : but such as in the first three or four moneths are round, and close trust, fat, freight, and as it were full sum'd and knit in every member, never prove good, swift or comely.

Now after your dog comes to full growth, as at a year and a half, or two years old, he would then have a fine long lean head,

head, with a sharp nose, rish grōwn from the Eye downward :  
 A full cleare eye with long Eyelids, a sharp ear, short and close  
 falling, a long neck a little bending, with a loose hanging we-  
 zand, a broad breast, strait forelegs, side hollow, ribs straight,  
 a square and flat back, short and strong fillets, a broad space be-  
 tween the Hips, a strong stearn or tayl, and a round foot, and  
 good large clefts. Now for the better help of your memory  
 I will give you an old rime left by your fore-Fathers, from which  
 you shall understand the true shapes of a perfect Grey-hound,  
 and this it is.

*If you will have a good rike,  
 Of which there are few like,  
 He must be headed like a snake,  
 Neckt like a Drake,  
 Backt like a beam,  
 Sided like a Bream,  
 Tayled like a Rat,  
 And footed like a Cat.*

These being the principal members of a good Grey-hound, if  
 they resemble the proportions of the things above named, the dog  
 cannot choose but be most perfect.

When you have thus a perfect and well shap'd Grey-hound, Dyeting of Grey-hounds to course.  
 your next rule is to apply your self to the dyeting and ordering of  
 him, for the pleasure to which you keep him ; that bringing him  
 to the uttermost height or strength of wind, you may know the  
 uttermost goodness that is within him, which, disorderly and foul  
 keeping will conceal, and you lose a Jewel for want of knowledg  
 of the value.

Dyeting then of Grey-hounds consisteth in four especial things, Of what die- ting consisteth.  
 to wit, food, exercise, ayting and kennelling ; the first nourishing  
 the Body, the second the Limbs, the third the Wind, and the last  
 the Spirits.

To speak then of food, it is two-fold, either general, or par- Of food.  
 ticular ; general as for a continual upholding and maintaining of  
 a dog in good state of body, being in good plight and liking ; or  
 particular, when a dog is either poor, sick, or prepared for wa-

Of general  
food.

ger, standeth in need of particular foods of advantage.

The best general food for the ordinary upholding of a Dog in a good state is, chippings, crusts of bread, soft tender bones or grissels of Veal, Lamb, or such like, first scalded in Beef-broth not very salt, or other broaths in which hath been boyled Mutton, Veal, or Venison, or any kind of Pullen; or for want thereof, other clean scalding water. After your chippings or bread is scalded, you shall let it stand and cool, then when your feeding-hour cometh, you shall take as much good milk, flotten milk, or butter-milk (but the best is most wholesome) as will fully or more then whiten the same: for it is to be intended, that your water must be all drunk up into your bread, and your milk must only make it swim, and with this feed your dog morning and evening after you come from walking him, and give him a good and sufficient meal thereof, for this will only maintain and uphold him in good state of body, being strong and lusty in flesh before.

Of particular  
feed.

For particular food, which is when a dog is poor, sick, or to be prepared for a wager, they be these: First, if he be poor in flesh, sickly or weak, the best food you can raise him up withall, is to take sheeps heads, wooll and all, clean washt, and break them all to pieces; then put them into a Cauldron or Kettle, and after the water hath risen, & is clean scum'd, put unto it good store of Oat-meal and sweet pot-herbs small chopt together, and so boyl it till the flesh be tender; then with this meat and the pottage feed your Grey-hound morning and evening, and it will soon put him into great lust and strength: but if you will prepare him for match and wager, then you shall make him this diet-bread: Take a peck of the finest and dryest Oatmeal, and two pecks of good Wheat; and having ground them together, boulte the meal through a fine boulting cloath, and then scattering amongst it a pretty quantity of Annis-seeds and Licoris well beaten together, knead it up with the whites of Eggs, new Ale and Barm mixt together, and so bake it in pretty round loaves reasonable hard: with this bread either scalded, as was before shewed in your chippings, or put into the pottage with sheeps heads warm, feed your dog morning and evening, to wit, half an hour after Sun-

Food for a  
match.

Hours of feed-  
ing.

Sun-rise, and half an hour before Sun-set, when you come from walking or airing him, and it will bring him to exceeding great strength of body, and purenesse of wind.

For the exercise of your Greyhound, it consisteth likewise in two things, coursing and airing; and they be every way as necessary as is food, because it only bringeth ability to his limbs, and perfitnesse to his wind: To speak then of coursing, you shall not faile to course him at least twice a week, if your courses be strong and long: but thrice a week if they be but reasonable, as a mile, or a mile and a half at most; and sometimes if your courses be short, under a mile. In coursing you shall observe two things, blood and labour; blood, which is a heartning and animating of your dog to delight in the pleasure, when he finds the reward of his pains taking; for if a dog course continually, and never kill the hare, the sport will grow irksome unto him, and therefore now and then give him such advantage, that he may kill the hare: then labour, which is contrary to killing; for in it you must give the hare all indifferent advantage both by Law and otherwise, whereby she may stand long before the dog, and make him shew his uttermost strength before he be able to reach her.

Of exercise by coursing.

After your dog hath coursed, if he kill, you shall by no means suffer him to break the hare; but having taken her from him, first cleanse his mouth and chaps from the wool of the hare, and then give him to eat, the Liver, Lights, and heart, and so take him up in your leash, lead him home, and there first wash his feet in a little butter and beer, and so put him up in the kennel, and half an hour after feed him: for upon his coursing dayes, you must by no means give him any meat more then a white-bread toast and butter, or a toast and oyle, which must be given before his morning ayring, and so kennelled till he go to his course.

Of ordering dogs.

Touching ayring or walking of Grey-hounds, which is a great nourisher and encrease of wind, it must duly be done every morning before Sun-rise, and every evening before or after Sun-set, in this manner: as soon as you have opened your kennel, and rubb'd your dog over with a clean hair-cloath, you shall let him play a little about you, before the kennel door, then take

Airing after coursing.



take him up in your leash and walk him forth in the field, where for the most part are not sheep or other small Cattel, which they may out of wantonness indanger, and there let him loose, and give him leave to play and scope about you, so that he may skummer, piss, and empty his body; which when he hath done sufficiently, you shall then take him up in the leash again, and so walk him home and kennel him; this you shall do after the same manner in the Evening; and also if your Dog be strong and lusty at night after Supper, and then bringing him home bring him to the fire, and there let him stretch and beak himself, and with your hand grope and cleanse him from ticks, and other filth; which done, lead him to the kennel, and shut him up for all night.

Of kennelling  
the Grey-  
hound.

Now for the kennelling of Greyhounds, it is a right necessary action, and must be performed with all diligence, for it breeds in dogs, lust, spirit and nimbleness, prevents divers mischances, and keeps the powers from spending, till time of necessity: and therefore you shall by no means suffer your dog to be out of the kennel, but in the hours of feeding, walking, coursing, or when you have other necessary businesses to do about him.

## CHAP. VII.

*The Lawes of the Leash or coursing, as they were commanded, allowed, and subscribed by Thomas late Duke of Norfolk, in the Raige of Queen Elizabeth.*

**N**OW lastly touching the Lawes of the Leash, or coursing, though they be uncertainly received, and alter with mens various opinions, yet these under-written were held for authentic once, and invented, received and subscribed unto by many noble and worthy Personages, suting fully with the Reasons and Grounds of the pastime.

First therefore it was ordered, That he which was chosen Fetterer, or letter-loose of the Grey-hounds, should receive the Grey-hounds match to run together into his Leash, as soon as he came into the field, and to follow next to the Hate-finder till he came unto the Form: and no horsemen nor footman, on pain of disgrace,



disgrace, to go before them, or on either side, but directly behind, the space of forty yards, or thereabouts.

*Item,* That not above one brace of Grey-hounds do course a Hare at one instant.

*Item,* That the Hare-finder should give the Hare three fow-hows before he put her from her Lear, to make the Grey-hounds gaze and attend her rising.

*Item,* That the Fewterer shall give the Hare twelvescore Law, ere he loose the Grey-hounds, except it be in danger of losing sight.

*Item,* That dog that giveth the first turn, if after the turn be given, there be neither coat, slip, nor wrench extraordinary, then he which gave the first turn shall be held to win the wager.

*Item,* If one dog give the first turn, and the other bear the Hare, then he which bore the Hare shall win.

*Item,* If one dog give both the first turn and last turn, and no other advantage between them, that odde turn shall win the wager.

*Item,* That a coat shall be more then two turns, and a go-by, or the bearing of the hare, equal with two turns.

*Item,* If neither dog turn the hare, then he which leaderh last, at the covert, shall be held to win the wager.

*Item,* If one dog turn the hare, serve himself, and turn her again, those two turns shall be as much as a coat.

*Item,* If all the course be equal, then he only which bears the hare shall win; and if she be not born, then the course must be adjudged dead.

*Item,* If he which comes first into the death of the hare, takes her up and saves her from breaking, cherisheth the dogs, and cleanseth their mouths from the wooll, or other filth of the Hare, for such courtesie done, he shall in courtesie challenge the Hare, but not doing it, he shall have no right, priviledge or title therein.

*Item,* If any dog shall take a fall in the course, and yet perform his part, he shall challenge advantage of a turn more then he giveth.

*Item,* If one dog turn the Hare, serve himself, and give divers coats, yet in the end stand still in the field, the other dog without

out turn giving, running home to the covert, that dog which stood still in the field, shall be then adjudged to lose the wager.

*Item,* If any man shall ride over a dog, and overthrow him in his course (though the dog were the worse dog in opinion) yet the party for the offence, shall either receive the disgrace of the field, or pay the wager; for between the parties, it shall be adjudged no course.

*Item,* Those which are chosen Judges of the Leash, shall give their judgments presently before they depart from the field, or else he, in whose default it lyeth, shall pay the wager by a general voice and sentence.

And thus much for the Lawes of Courfing, and those particularities which do depend thereupon: All which, I submit unto the correction and amendment of those Worthy and well-knowing Gentlemen, who having the Office of the Leash conferred upon them, have both Authority and Power to make Lawes therein, according unto the Customs of Countries, and the Rule of Reason.

*The end of Hunting.*

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*Of*



## Of Particular Recreations.

### CHAP. VIII.

#### *Of divers other particular Recreations.*

**T**Here be many other particular Recreations necessary for the knowledge and practice of our Husbandman ; As first, Shooting in the Long-bow, which is both healthful for the Body, and necessary for the Common-wealth : the first, extending the Limbs, and making them pliant : the other, enabling strength fit to preserve and defend his Country. And first, for shooting in the Long-bow, a man must observe these few Rules, first, that he have a good Eye to behold and discern his mark, a knowing judgment to understand the distance of ground, to take the true advantage of a side-wind, and to know in what compass his Arrow must flye, and a quick dexterity to give his shaft a strong, sharp and suddain loose ; he must in the action it self stand fair, comely, and upright with his body, his Left foot a convenient stride before his Right, both his hammes stiff, his left Arm holding his Bow in the midst stretcht streight out, and his Right Arm with his three first fingers and his thumb drawing the string to his right Ear, the notch of his arrow resting between his fore-finger, and long finger of his right hand, and the feal of his Arrow below the feathers upon the

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middle

middle knuckle of his fore-finger on his left hand, he shall draw his Arrow up close unto the head and deliver it on the instant without hanging on the string; the best Bow is either Spanish or English Yew, and the worst of Witchen or Elme; the best shaft is of Burch, Sugar-chest, or Brazel; and the best feathers gray or white.

The Marks to shoot at are three, Butts, Pricks, or Rovers: the Butt is a levell Mark, and therefore would have a strong Arrow with a very broad Feather: The Prick is a Mark of some compasse, yet most certain in the distance, therefore would have nimble strong Arrows with a middle feather, all of one weight and flying: the Rover is a mark uncertain, sometimes long, sometimes short, and therefore must have arrows lighter or heavier, according unto the distance of place.

Of Shooting  
in Crosse-  
bowes.

If infirmity in the Arm, or Back, take from a man the use of the Long-bow, he may then with a Crow-bow made for gafel carried upon a string, and the neather end placed in a rest, with arrowes made strong, heavy, and suitable to the strength of the Bow, shoot at all the former Marks, and reap the same pleasure he formerly did with his long bow.

Of bowling.

There is another Recreation, which howsoever unlawfullin the abuse thereof, yet exercised with moderation, is even of Physitians themselves held exceeding wholesome, and hath been prescribed for a Recreation to great Persons, and that is bowling, in which a man shall find great Art in choosing out his Ground, and preventing the Winding, Hanging, and many turning advantages of the same, whether it be in open wide places, or in close Allies: And in this sport the choosing of the Bowl is the greatest cunning: your flat bowls being the best for close Allies: your round byassed bowls for open grounds of advantage, and your round bowls like a ball, for green swarths that are plain and levell.

Not inferiour to these sports, either for health or action, are the Tenise, or Baloon; the first being a pastime in close or open Courts, striking a little round ball to and fro, either with the palms of the hand, or with Racket. The other a strong and moving sport, in the open field, with a great ball of double Leather fill'd

fill'd with wind, and so driven to and fro with the strength of a mans Arm, arm'd in a bracer of wood; either of which actions, must be learnt by the Eye and practice, not by the Ear or Reading.



## Of Angling, &c.

### CHAP. IX.

*The whole Art of Angling; as it was written in a small Treatise in Rime, and now for the better understanding of the Reader put into Prose, and adorned and enlarged. And first of Angling, the Vertue, Use and Antiquity.*

**S**INCE Pleasure is a Rapture, or power in this last Age, stoln into the hearts of men, and there lodged up with such a careful guard and attendance, that nothing is more Supreme, or ruleth with greater strength in their affections; and since all are now become the Sons of Pleasure, and every good is measured by the delight it produceth: what work unto men can be more thankful then a discourse of that pleasure which is most comely, most honest, and giveth the most liberty to Divine Meditation? and that without all question is the Art of Angling, which having ever been most hurtlesly necessary, hath been the sport or Recreation of Gods Saints, of most holy Fathers, and of many Worthy and Reverend Divines, both dead, and at this time breathing.

For the use thereof (in its own true and unabused nature) The use of Angling.

rieth in it neither covetousness, deceit, nor anger, the three main spirits which ever (in some ill measure) rule in all other pastimes: neither are alone predominant without the attendance of their several hand-maids, as Theft, Blasphemy, or Blood-shed: for in Dice-play, Cards, Bowls, or any other sport where money is the goal to which mens minds are directed, what can mans avarice there be accounted other then a familiar Robbery, each seeking by deceit to couzen and spoyle others of that blisse of meanes which God hath bestowed to support them and their families. And as in every contention there must be a better-hood or super-excelling; so in this, when the weaker deceit is deprived of his expectation, how doth it then fall into Curses, Oaths, and furies, such as would make Vertue tremble with the imaginations?

But in this Art of Angling there is no such evil, no such sinful violence, for the greatest things it coveteth, is for much labour a little Fish, hardly so much as will suffice Nature in a reasonable stomach: for the Angler must intice, not command his reward; and, that which is worthy millions to his contentment, another may buy for a groat in the Market. His deceit worketh not upon men, but upon those Creatures whom it is lawful to beguile for our honest Recreations or needful use; and for all rage and fury it must be so great a stranger to this civil pastime, that if it come but within view or speculation thereof, it is no more to be esteemed a pleasure: For every proper good thereof in the very instant faileth, shewing unto all men that will undergo any delight therein, that it was first invented, taught, and shall for ever be maintained by Patience only. And yet I may not say, onely Patience; for her other three Sisters have likewise a commanding in this exercise, for Justice directeth and appointeth out those places where men may with liberty use their sport, and neither do injury to their Neighbours, nor incur the censure of incivility. Temperance layeth down the measure of the action, and moderateth desire in such good proportion, that no Excess is found in the over-flow of their affections. Lastly, Fortitude enableth the Mind to undergo the travail and exchange of Weathers, with a healthful ease, and not to despair with a little expence of time, but to persevere with a constant imagination in the end to obtain both pleasure and satisfaction. Now

Now for the Antiquity thereof (for all pleasures, like Gentry, are held to be most excellent, which is most ancient) it is by some Writers said to be found out by *Dencalion* and *Pyrrha* his Wife, after the general flood. Others write, It was the invention of *Saturn*, after the Peace concluded betwixt him and his brother *Titan*: And others, That it came from *Belus* the Son of *Nimrod*, who first invented all holy and vertuous Recreations. And all these though they savour of fiction, yet they differ not from truth, for it is most certain, that both *Dencalion*, *Saturn*, and *Belus* are taken for figures of *Noah* and his Family, and the invention of the Art of Angling, is truly said to come from the Sons of *Seth*, of which *Noah* was most Principal. Thus you see it is good, as having no coherence with evil: worthy of use, in as much as it is mixt with a delightful profit: And most antient, as being the Recreation of the first Patriarchs; Wherefore now I will proceed to the Art it self, and the means to attain it.

## CHAP. X.

*Of the Angle-Rod, Lines, Corks, and other tools for Angling.*

IN as much as the first Ground-Work or Substance of this Art of Angling consisteth in the implements belonging and appertaining thereunto, and that except a man be posselt of them which are most exact, nimble or necessary for the same, his labour is vain, and to little or no purpose employed, and for as much as the Angle Rod is the greatest, principallest, and sole Director of all other Tools belonging thereunto, I think it not amiss to begin with the choyce and order thereof, according to the opinions of the best noted Anglers, which either have been in times past, or are at this day living.

For the choyce then of your Angle-Rod, you shall understand that some Anglers are of opinion, that the best should be composed of two pieces, a main body, and a small pliant top. The Main body would be of a fine grown ground-Witchin, or a ground Elme, of at least nine or ten foot in length, streight, smooth, without knots, and not much differing at either end in  
one



one substance or thickness. It would be gathered at the fall of the leaf, near or about *All-hallowtide*, and laid up in some dry place, where it may lye straight, and of it self season: For to beak them in the fire (as many do, when they are green, is not so good; but after they be well dryed and seasoned of themselves, then to beak them in the fire, and set them so streight and even that an arrow cannot surpass them, is excellent; then you may take off the upper rind, and what with the smoak, and their own age, their colour will be so dark, that they will give no reflect into the Water, (which is a principal observation). Your Rod being made thus streight and seasoned, you shall at the upper end thereof with an augur or an hot Iron (but a hot Iron is the better) burn a hole about three inches deep, and of a fingers wideneis: then on the out-side of the Rod, from the top of the hole unto the bottome, you shall wrap it about either with strong double twisted thred well waxed or pitcht, or with Shoemakers thred many times doubled and well waxed with Shoemakers Wax, and the last end fastned under the last folds, so close and so sure, that it may by no means loose; for this will keep the Rod from cleaving or breaking in that same place where the hollownes was made.

Of the top of  
the Angle-  
Rod.

The stock being thus made, you shall into the hole fixe the Top, which would be a very small ground Hazel, growing from the Earth upward, very smooth and streight, which would be cut at the later end of the year, and lye in season all the Winter, the upper Rinde being by no means taken off, neither the Rod put into the fire at all, but only seasoned in a good dry place, where it may lye streight, and have both the Wind and some Ayr of the Fire to come unto it. This Top must be pliant and bending, yet of such a sufficient strength, that it will not break with any reasonable jerk, but as it is any way bowed, so to return again to the former straightnesse. This top wand would be of a yard and a half, or an Ell at least in length, and at the smallest end thereof would be fastned with a warp of hair, or a strong loop of hair, about an inch long, to which you may at pleasure fasten your fishing line; and the bigger end of the top must be thrust into the socket of the stock, and made so fast, that it may

may not loosen nor shake out with any shaking or other reasonable violence. And albeit the Witchin or Ground Elme are accounted the best to frame these main stocks of, yet I have seen very good stocks made both of Sallow, Beech or Poplar; for the lighter your Rod is, (so it be strong) it is so much the better, and more for the ease of him that useth it.

There be other approved good Anglers which allow onely the The Angle-Rod which is composed all of one entire piece, and think them stronger, nimbler, and lesse casual: and these Rods they would have chosen of an excellent streight and well-grown Ground Hazel, being from the bottome to the top finely Rush-grown, the upper end thereof being small, plyant and bending. This Rod should be gathered at the fall of the leaf, when the leaves are some fallen and some sticking: as soon as you have cut them up, you shall cut away the leaves and small sprigs, yet not so near that you hurt the bark (for that by no means must be stir'd, as well for the strength of the Rod, as for the colour, which being dark will not so soon catch the eye of the Fish and offend them.) Then bringing your Rods home, you shall lay them upon a level floor, and pressing them down with good weights, to keep them from warping, let them lye and season all the Winter: Then in the Spring-time take them up for your purpose, which is only to make the knots smooth, and to fix your loop of hair unto the upper end. Now of these Rods, the longest is the best, so it be streight and well grown; for most commonly they are so short, that they will serve to fish with but in little narrow Brooks, or else in a Boat, in great waters.

There be other Anglers, and many of the best and approved judgment, which allow the The Anglers Rod of many as those which are made of Cane: each piece exceeding another one degree, in such even proportion that being fixed and thrust one within another, they will shew as one even and most streight Rush-grown body, without any crookedness or other outward evil favouredness. These pieces would not be above

above four foot in length apiece, and three such pieces, which make twelve foot, are sufficient for the stock of the Rod, besides the top. Now for those ends which are the sockets, into which you fix the other Canes, you shall hoop them about with fine plates of Brass, an inch and an half broad, well sodered, and smoothly filed, which will keep the Cane from cleaving: and for the top of this Rod, the round Whale-bone is thought the best; and surely in my conceit so it is both for this or any other Rod whatsoever; for it is tough, strong, and most plyant. These Rods most commonly are made to have the small Canes thrust down into the wide Canes, so that a man may walk with them as with a staff, as when he pleaseth to draw them forth, and use them as occasion shall be offered. The onely Exception which is taken at these kind of Rods, is the bright colour of the Cane, which reflecting into the water, oft-times scareth the Fish, and maketh them afraid to bite: But if you fish in deep and thick Waters, there is no such matter, for the shadow of the Rodde is not discerned through the Sun, onely in shallow and clear Brooks it is a little hindrance; and therefore he which is a Master in this Art, will Umber and darken the Rod, by rubbing it over a gentle fire with a little Capons grease, and brown of Spain, mixt together.

Of the Lines.

Now for your Lines, you shall understand that they are to be made of the strongest, longest, and best grown Horse-haire that can be got, not that which groweth on his Main, nor upon the upper part or setting on of his tayl, but that which groweth from the middle and inmost part of his dock, and so extendeth it self down to the ground, being the biggest and strongest hairs about the Horse: neither are these hairs to be gathered from poor, lean and diseased Jades of little price or value, but from the fattest, soundest, and proudest Horse you can find, for the best Horse hath ever the best hair; neither would your hairs be gathered from Nags, Mares, or Geldings, but from ston'd Horses only, of which the black hair is the worst, the white or gray best, and other colours indifferent. Those Lines which you make for small fish, as Gudgeon, Whiting or Menew, would be composed of three hairs: those which you make for Peach or Trout, would be

be of five hairs, and those for the Chub or Barbel, would be of seven: To those of three hairs, you shall add one thread of silk; to those of five, two threads of silk; and to those of seven, three threads of silk. You shall twist your hairs neither too hard nor too slack, but even so as they may twind and couch close one within another, and no more, without either snarling or gaping one from another; the end you shall fasten together with a Fishers knot, which is your ordinary fast knots, foulded four times about, both under and above, for this will not loose in the water, but being drawn close together, will continue, when all other knots will fail; for a hair being smooth and stiff, will yield and go back, if it be not artificially drawn together. Your ordinary line would be between three and four fadom in length, yet for as much as there are diversities in the length of rods, in the depth of waters, and in the places of standing to Angle in, it shall be good to have lines of divers lengths, and to take those which shall be fittest for your purpose.

These lines, though the natural hairs being white or grey, be not much offensive, yet it shall not be amiss to colour them according to the seasons of the year, for so they will least scare the Fish, and soonest intice them to bite with most greediness, and of colours, the best is the water-green, which you shall make after this manner: Take a pottle of Allom-water, and put thereunto a great handful of Marigolds, and let them boil well, till a yellow scum rise upon the water, then take half a pound of green Copperas, and as much Verdigrease, beaten to fine powder, and put it with the hair into the water, and so let it boyl again a pretty space, and then set it by to cool for half a day, then take out your hair, and lay it where it may dry, and you shall see it of a delicate green colour, which indeed is the best water-green that may be. This colour is excellent to angle with in all clear waters where the line lies plain, and most discovered, and will continue from the beginning of the Spring, to the beginning of Winter. Now if you will have your lines of a yellow colour, you shall boyl your hair in Allom-water, mixt only with Marigolds, and a handful of Turmerick: but if you cannot get Turmerick, then you shall stamp so much of green Walnut-tree leaves, and mixe

The colouring  
of Lines.

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it with the water, and steep your hair therein twenty and four hours at least.

Lines of this colour are good to Angle with, in waters that are clear, yet full of weeds, sedge, and such like; for it is not unlike to the stalks of these weeds, and it will well continue to Angle withall, the first part of the Winter, as from before *Michaëmas*, till after *Christmas*.

If you will have your Lines of a russet colour, you shall take a part of Allom-water, and as much strong Lye, then put there-to a handful of foot, and as much brown of Spain, and after it hath boyled an hour or two, set it by to cool, and when it is cold, steep your hair therein a day and a night, and then hang it up to dry: these coloured lines are good to angle with in all deep waters, whether they be Rivers or standing Pools, as Ponds, and such like, and are most in use from *Christmas* till after *Easter*.

Now if you will have your lines of a brown or dusky colour, you shall take a pound of *Umber*, and half so much foot, and seethe it in a pottle of Ale a good space, then when it is cold, steep your hairs therein a day and a night, and then hang them up to dry, and the colour will be perfect: yet ever the darker you would have it, the more *Umber* put unto it: These Lines are excellent to angle with in Waters that are black, deep and muddy, be they either running or standing Waters, and will continue all seasons of the year whatsoever, only in bright Waters they are too black, and cast too large a shadow. Lastly, if you would have your Lines of a tawny colour, (although in the Water it sheweth almost all one with the other darker colours) you shall take Lime and Water, mix it together, and steep your hair therein half a day, & then take it forth and steep it double so long time in Tanners ouze, and then hang it up to dry, and the colour will be perfect: these lines are best to angle with in Moorish and Heathy Waters, which are of a reddish colour, and will serve for that purpose all seasons of the year: if with this colour or the green, you mix a silver thread, it will not be amiss: and with the other colours, a gold thread is good also. And note, That at each end of your line, you make a loop, the one to fasten to the top

top of your Rod, being the larger ; and the other to fasten your hook-line unto, which would be somewhat lesser.

After your Lines be made, you shall make your Corks in this manner ; Take of the best and thickest Cork you can get, and with a fine Razor having pared it smooth on the outside, cut it into the fashion of a long Katherine Pear, big and round at the one end, and long and slender at the other, and according to the strength of your Line, so make your work bigger or lesser ; as for a Line of three hairs, a Cork of an inch and half in length, and as much in compass in the thickest part, is big enough : and for a Line of more hairs, a Cork of more length and compass will become it. And indeed to speak truly, forasmuch as it serveth but only for a direction to your eye, to know when the fish biteth, and when you shall strike ; the lesser your Cork is, the better it is, and breedeth less affright in the water, insomuch, that many Anglers will fish without any Cork, with a bare quill only, but that it is not so certain, nor giveth so sure direction as the Cork doth. After you have shaped your Cork, you shall with a hot Iron bore a hole long-wise, through the midst thereof, and into that hole thrust a quill, and through the quill draw your Line, and fasten them both together with a wedge of the hard end of the Goose feather. And note, That both your quill and your wedge be white, for that breedeth least offence on the water ; then place the smaller end of your Cork down toward your hook, and the bigger end toward your rod, that the smaller end sinking down with the hook, the bigger may float aloft and bear the quill upward, which when at any time you see or perceive pull'd down into the water, then you may safely strike ; for without doubt it is an assured sign that the Fish hath bitten at the bait.

There be other Anglers which make their Corks in the fashion of a Nunne gig, small at both ends, and big in the midst, and it is not much to be disliked, onely it is a little sooner apt to sink, and you may thereby strike before the fish have full bitten. Others shape their Corks in the fashion of a whirl, or of a little apple, round, flattish of both sides, and this Cork is best to Angle for the greatest Fishes, because it being not so apt to

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sink



Of Angling  
hooks.

sink, will float till the hook be fastned, and that the Fish beginneth to shoot away with the bait, so that a man then striking can seldome or never lose his labour.

Next to your Corks, is your hooks, and they be of divers shapes and fashions, some big, some little, some between both, according to the Fish at which you angle: the best substance whereof to make them, is either old Spanish needles, or else strong wier drawn as near as may be to that height of temper, which being nealed and allaid in the fire, you may bend and bow at your pleasure. Now for the best softning of your wier, if you make your hooks of old needles, you shall need but to hold them in the blaze of a candle till they be red hot, and then let them cool of themselves, and they will be soft and pliant enough; but if you make your hooks of strong Spanish Wier, you shall roul it round, and lay it upon burning Charcoals, turning it up and down till it be all red hot in every place, then let it gently cool of it self, and it will be soft enough.

Now for the making of your hooks, I advise you to go to such as are best reputed for making of them, and buy of all sorts from the biggest to the least; that is to say, from that which taketh the Loach, to that which taketh the Salmon; and let them lie before you for examples: then look of what sorts of hooks you intend to make, and with a fine File first make the point of your hook, which would neither be too sharp, for then it will catch hold of every thing, when it should not; nor too blunt, lest it fail to take hold when there is occasion: therefore in that observe a mean, making it lesse then a fine needle, and more sharp then a small Pin. When you have made the point, then with a thin knife of a very good edge, you shall cut out and raise up the beard, which you shall make greater or lesse, according to the bigness of the hook, and the strength of the wier: for you must by no means cut the beard so deep, that thereby you weaken the hook, but must be as strong in that place as any other. When the point and beard is made, you shall with a fine pair of round plyers, turn and compasse the hook about, making it round, circular-wise, being somewhat more then a semi-circle; and ever observe



observe, that the rounder the compasse or bout cometh in, that so much the better proportioned the hook is. This done, you shall leave as much as you think convenient for the shank, and then cut it off from the rest of the wier; which done, you shall beat the end down flat, and somewhat broader then the rest, and so polish and smooth it all over, then heating it red hot in a little pan of Charcoals, put it suddainly into the water, and quench it, which will bring your hook to a full strength and hardness.

Thus you see how to make hooks of all sizes and shapes, whether they be single or double hooks, for although the quantities alter, yet the shapes do not; and the double hook, which is the Pike-hook, is no other but two single hooks all of one wier turned contrary-ways, and this double hook must not have the line fix'd unto it, but a strong wier joyned unto it, of three inches long, well wound, and wrapped with a smaller wier: then add to it another wier of the same length, as if they were two severall links joyned together, and then the line fixed to the last link; and therefore are called armed hooks, for they defend the line from shearing or cutting in pieces with the teeth of the Pike.

Now for your single hooks, you shall thus fix them unto your lines, take a length of your twisted hairs, containing that number which is fit for the hook, and having made a strong loop at the one end, lay the other end where there is no bout, upon the inside of your hook; then with a strong red silk either single or double, according to the bigness of the hook, being well waxed, whip and wrap the hook round about, as thick, close, and strait as may be, in such sort as you see men whip their Bow-strings, and in the same manner make the ends of your silk fast; then with a scissers cut the silk and hairs off close by the hook, and you may be sure that they will not loose one from another, with reasonable violence.

After your hook is thus fastned to your line, you shall then plumb your line, which is to fix certain pieces of lead, according to the bigness of your line about it, some being in length a quarter of an inch, some bigger, and some less, according unto the  
weight

weight of your hook, and bigness of your Cork, for these plummetts are but only to carry down your hook, and lay it in the bottom, neither being so heavy to make the Cork sink; nor so light, as not with the smallest touch to make the Cork to dip into the water; you shall then understand, that your first plummet would be twelve or fourteen inches from the hook, the rest not above one inch distance one from another, not being above five or seven at most, albeit some Anglers use nine, and some more, as their fancies rule them. There is in plumbing of Lines, three several fashions of Plummetts used, as one long, another square, and the third in a Diamond form, but all tending to one end, have but one use, and the long ones are accounted the best, so that they be neatly set to, and the end very smooth and close laid down, so that they tangle not the Line by catching hold upon weeds, or other trash in the bottom of the water.

Of other Implements for Angles.

Thus have you seen the best choice of Rods, Lines, Corks and Hooks, and how to fix and couple them all together to do their several Offices; It now resteth that we speak of other necessary implements, which should accompany the Painful and Industrious Angler, and they be these: He shall besides these before spoken of, have a large musket-bullet, through which having fixed a double twisted thread, and thereof made a strong loop, he may at his pleasure hang it upon his hook, and therewith sound the depth of every water, and so know how to plumb his lines, and place his Cork in their due places; then he shall have a large ring of Lead six inches at least in compass, and made fast to a small long Line, through which thrusting your Angle Rod, and letting it fall into the water by your hair-Line, it will help to unloose your hook if it be fastned either upon weed, or other stones in the water.

Then he shall have a fine smooth Board of some curious wood for shew sake, being as big as a Trencher, and cut battlement-wise at each end, on which he shall fold his several Lines. His Hooks he shall have in a dry close Box, he shall have a little bag of red cloth, to carry his Worms in, and mixt with them a little fresh mould and Fennel: then he shall either have a close stop

stopt ho n, in which he shall keep Maggots, Bobbes, Palmers, and such like, or a hollow Cane, in which he may put them, and Scarrabs: He shall have a close Box for all sorts of live flies, and another for Needles, Silk, Thread, Wax, and other loose hairs; then a roul of pitch thread to mend the Angle-Rod withal, if it chance to break, a file, a knife, a pouch with many purses, in which you may place all your implements whatsoever severally.

Lastly, he shall have a little fine wanded Peppe to hang by his side, in which he shall put the fish he catcheth; and a small round net fastened unto a poles end, wherewith he may land a Pike, or any other great Fish of that kind whatsoever. To have also a little Boat or Cot, if you Angle in great Waters, to carry you up and down, to the most convenientest places for your pastime, is also right necessary, and fit for an Angler; And thus I have shewed you the substance of the Anglers instrument.

## CHAP. II:

### *Of the Anglers Apparell, and inward Qualities.*

**T**ouching the Anglers Apparel (for it is a respect as necessary as any other whatsoever) it would by no means be garish, light-coloured, or shining, for whatsoever with a glittering bew reflecteth upon the water, immediately it frighteth the Fish, and maketh them flie from his presence; no hunger being able to tempt them to bite, when their eye is offended; and of all creatures there is none more sharp-sighted then Fishes are.

Let then your apparel be plain and comely; of a dark colour, Anglers apparell as Russiet, Tawny, or such like, close to your body, without any new fashioned flashes, or hanging sleeves, waving loose, like sails about you, for they are like blinks, which will ever chase your game from you: let it for your own health and ease sake, be warm and well lined, that neither the coldness of the Ayr, nor the moistness of the Water may offend you: keep your head and feet dry, for from the offence of them springeth Agues, and worse infirmities.

Now for the inward qualities of the minde, albeit some Anglers ver-  
Writers sues,

Writers reduce them to twelve heads, which indeed whosoever enjoyeth, cannot chuse but be very compleat in much perfection, yet I must draw them into many more branches. The first, and most especial whereof is, that a skilful angler ought to be a general Scholler, and seen in all the Liberal Sciences, as a Grammarian, to know how either to Write or Discourse of his art in true and fitting terms, either without affectation or rudeness. He should have sweetness of speech, to perswade & intice others to delight in an Exercise so much laudable. He should have strength of Arguments to defend and maintain his profession, against envy or slander. He should have knowledg in the Sun, Moon, and Stars, that by their aspects he may guesse the seasonableness or unseasonableness of the weather, the breeding of storms, and from what Coasts the winds are ever delivered. He should be a good knower of Countries, and well used to High-ways, that by taking the readiest paths to every Lake, Brook, or River, his Journeys may be more certain, and less wearisome. He should have knowledge in proportions of all sorts, whether Circular, Square, or Diametrical, that when he shall be questioned of his diurnal progresses, he may give a Geographical description of the angles and channels of Rivers, how they fall from their heads, and what compasses they fetch in their several windings. He must also have the perfect art of numbring, that in the founding of Lakes or Rivers, he may know how many foot or inches each severally containeth; and by adding, subtracting, or multiplying the same, he may yield the reason of every Rivers swift or slow current. He should not be unskilful in Musick, that whensoever either melancholy, heaviness of his thoughts, or the perturbations of his own fancies, stirreth up sadness in him, he may remove the same with some godly Hymn or Anthem, of which *David* gives him ample examples.

He must be of a well settled & constant belief, to enjoy the benefit of his Expectation; for then to despair, it were better never to be put in practice: And he must ever think where the waters are pleasant, and any thing likely, that there the Creator of all good things hath stored up much of his plenty, and though your  
satisfaction

satisfaction be not as ready as your wishes, yet you must hope still, that with perseverance you shall reap thefulness of your harvest with contentment : Then he must be full of love both to his Pleasure and to his Neighbour : To his pleasure, which otherwise will be irksome and tedious ; and to his Neighbour, that he neither give offence in any particular, nor be guilty of any general destruction : then he must be exceeding patient, and neither vex nor excruciate himself with losses or mischances, as in losing the prey when it is almost in the hand, or by breaking his Tools by ignorance or negligence, but with a pleased sufferance amend errors, and think mischances instructions to better carefulness.

He must then be full of humble thoughts, not disdaining when occasion commands to kneel, lye down, or wet his feet or fingers, as oft as there is any advantage given thereby, unto the gaining the end of his labour. Then must he be strong and valiant, neither to be amazed with Storms, nor affrighted with Thunder, but to hold them according to their natural causes, and the pleasure of the highest : neither must he, like the Fox which preyeth upon Lambs, employ all his Labour against the smaller Prey : But like the Lyon that seizeth Elephants, think the greatest Fish which swimmeth, a reward little enough for the pains which he endureth. Then must he be liberal, and not working onely for his own belly, as if it could never be satisfied ; but he must with much cheerfulness bestow the fruits of his Skill amongst his honest Neighbours, who being partners of his gain, will doubly renown his triumph, and that is ever a pleasing reward to Vertue.

Then must he be prudent, that apprehending the Reasons why the Fish will not bite, and all other casual impediments which hinder his sport, and knowing the Remedies for the same, he may direct his Labours to be without troublefomeness.

Then he must have a moderate contentation of the Mind to be satisfied with indifferent things, and not out of any avaritious greediness think every thing too little, be it never so abundant.

Then must he be of a thankful nature, praising the Author of all goodness, and shewing a large gratefulness for the least satisfaction.

Then must he be of a perfect memory, quick and prompt to call into his mind all the needful things which are any way in this exercise to be employed, lest by omission or by forgetfulness of any, he frustrate his hopes, and make his labour effectlesse. Lastly, he must be of a strong constitution of body, able to endure much fasting, and not of a gnawing stomach, observing hours, in which if it be unsatisfied, it troubleth both the Mind and Body, and loseth that delight which maketh the pastime only pleasing.

**Cautions.**

Thus having shewed the inward Vertues and Qualities which should alwayes accompany a perfect Angler, it is very meet now to give unto you certain Cautions, which being carefully observed, you shall with more ease obtain the fulness of your desires. First therefore, when you go to Angle, you shall observe, That all your Tools, Lines, or Implements be (as the Sea-man saith) yare, fit, and ready; for to have them ravell'd, ill made or in unreadiness, they are great hindrances unto your pleasure. Then look that your baits be good, sweet, fine and agreeing with the season: for if they be otherwise unproper in any of their natures, they are uselesse, & you had better have been at home then by the River. Then you must not Angle in unseasonable times, for the Fish being not inclined to bite, it is a strange inticement that can compel them. Then you must be careful neither by your apparel, motions, or too open standing, to give affright to the Fish; for when they are scared they flye from you, and you seek society in an empty house. Then must you labour in clear and untroubled waters, for when the Brooks are any thing white, muddy and thick either through inundations or other trouble, it is impossible to get any thing with the Angle: Then, to respect the temper of the weather, for extream wind or extream cold taketh away all manner of appetite from Fish: So doth likewise too violent heat, or rain that is great, heavy, and beating, or any Storms, Snows, Hail or Blustings, especially that which cometh from the East, which of all is the worst. Those which blow from the South are best; and those which come from the North or West are indifferent. Many other Observations there are, but they shall follow in their due places.

**CHAP.**



## CHAP. XII.

*Of the best and worst Seasons to Angle in, and their Uses.*

**B**Efore I direct you in the best Seasons, and their contrary, for the general Art of Angling, I think it not amiss, a little by the way, to give you a glance or speculation how to order your Body and Art of each several water: for the manner of your standing and concealing of your self is a material and chief point in this Art.

Know then, That if you Angle in any Pond or standing Water, The Anglers you shall before you fall to your business, with your Plumb, <sup>manner of</sup> find the Water in divers places, and where you find it deepest, blackest, and least transparent, there you shall stand to Angle, placing your self under the bank, and if it be possible, so as your shadow may be carried from the Water: For you must at no time, if you can chuse, let your shadow lye upon the water: and although in these deep places your standing open or close, are either of them reckoned indifferent, because the waters depth is a sufficient concealment, yet the closer you stand, is accounted amongst Anglers most handsome and artificial.

But if you go to Angle at the River, then the best place to cast in your Line, is, where it is deepest and clearest, so as you may behold the Sand or Gravel at the bottome: and in these places you shall strive to conceal your self as much as possible, as standing behind Poplars, Oziars, or other Trees, or under the covert of some Bank, Rock, or other ruines at the side of the River: also in covert places, where are many Weeds, Roots of Trees, and other rubbish, is good Angling, but very troublesome: for Fish lying there warm and in safety, will have a great resort thereunto, and bite freely, so that the Angler must be careful in the putting in of his hook, and very deliberate in striking, lest doing any thing rashly, he break his Line and hook, being never so little intangled.

It is good also to Angle in Whirle-pools, for they being like pits within the Rivers, are seldome unfurnished of the greatest Fishes; also, it is good to Angle at the falls of water, as

under Bridges, standing behind the Jawmes and Arches, or at the flood-gates of Mills, being hid with the higher Timbers. And generally where you see the water is deepest, clearest and calmest, being least troubled with wind or weather, is the fittest place to angle in. Other observations there are, but they will follow in more necessary places.

The best season to Angle in.

To return then to our first purpose. You shall know the best season to Angle in, is from *April* to the end of *October*, speaking of the general use of the pleasure; and the best hours also in general account, are from four in the morning till nine, and from three in the Afternoon till after five in the Evening, the wind blowing from South, West, or North, and the ayr temperate, inclined to warmneis; but to speak of particular observations of seasons, know, that if the day be dark, close and lowering, or have a gentle whistling and playing upon the water, it is good to Angle in, and the Fish will bite with pleasure: Nay, if a fine mizling dew of Rain fall gently, without violence, they will then bite the faster: Also after Floods are gone away, and the Rivers are come within their own Banks, the first cleerness recovered, and the water pure, then it is good to Angle. And generally for your Summer Angling, choose the coolest time of the day, for in the heat of the day Fish betake themselves to their rest, and will neither bite nor play.

But for your Winter Angling, which is from *October* to *April*, you shall not make any difference of time, if the weather be calm, for all hours of the Sun are alike, only the noon-tide or mid-day is most preferred, especially in Ponds and standing water. If the water where you Angle, ebbe or flow, the best time of Angling, is held to be in the ebbe: yet in some places where the Tide is not great, there the flood is preferred. Lastly, whensoever you see the Trout play or leap above the water, and the Pike shut in pursuit of other fishes, it is then a very good time to Angle in, using such baits as are then meet for the moneth and season, as shall be shewed hereafter.

Seasons ill to Angle in.

Now for those seasons which are naught to Angle in, there is none worse than in the violent heat of the day, or when the Winds are loudest, Rain heaviest, Snow and Hail extreamest: Thunder and Lightning are offensive, or any sharp ayr which flyeth from  
the

the East: The places where men use to wash Sheep you shall forbear; for the very smell of the Wooll will chase fish from their haunts, Land-floods are enemies to Anglers; so also at the fall of the Leaf is the shedding of leaves into the water, and many other such like pollutions, of which we will speak something more hereafter.

Therefore, to conclude this Chapter, and to shew you as well Of Fishes how to find your fish, as the Art to take it being found, you shall know, that the Carp, Eele, and Tench, do ever haunt muddy places: the first, which is the Carp, lyeth ever in the depth and bottom thereof; the Tench, among the weeds and roots of Sedges; and the Eele under stones, blocks, or the roots of Trees.

The Bream, the Chevin and the Pike, haunt ever in the cleer and sandy bottom; the Pike where you see great store of small fry; the Chevin where the stream runneth swiftest, and the shade is greatest; and the Bream where the water is broadest, and the depth giveth greatest liberty; and generally these three sorts of Fish delight more in standing Waters then in running Rivers, although the ancient Proverb is,

*Ancome Eele, and Witham Pike,  
In all England is none fike.*

which are Rivers in *Lincolnshire*. Now the Salmon hath his haunt in the swiftest and broadest Rivers, whose Channels fall down into the Sea. The Trout loveth smaller Brooks, whose current is swift, clear, gravelly, and ever hath his lodging in the deepest holes that are therein; and the Perch haunteth Rivers of the same nature, only he abideth most in Creeks and hollowneses, which are about the bank; and indeed these three Fishes generally, Salmon, Trout and Perch love clear streams, being green with weeds, and the bottoms hard with gravel and pibble.

The Gudgeon, the Loach and the Bulhead haunt ever shallowest places, and where streams are slow yet transparent; The Barbel, Roch, Dace and Ruff, haunt the deep shady places of those Brooks which are mixt with more sand than gravel, or where the clay is firm and not slimy, and delight ever to lye under the shadows

dows of Trees, brambles or other things growing from the bank.

The Luce or Lucern, which indeed is but the over-grown Pike haunteth the broad and large Mears, which are miles in compasse, being deep and still, and ever lodgeth in the bottome thereof amongst the Roots and Tufts of Sedge, and Bulrushes, being quiet and least troubled. The Humber haunts the clayie Rivers of High Countries; where the soyl is rich and fall of Marle, or in Lakes or Ponds of the same nature. The Shad and Tweat haunt those Waters which are brackish, deep, and accustomed to ebb and flow: and where they haunt, there commonly also is found both the Mullet and Suant: all which love to lodge close and flat at the bottome of the Water, so it be more Ooze than gravel.

*Objection.*

But here now methinks I hear the Curious reprehend me, saying, That if these Rules should be infallible, that then no River or Pond could contain above three sorts of Fish only, when daily Experience sheweth us, that some Rivers have ten, some twenty, and some thirty; As the *Trent* for example, whose ancient name in *French* is *Trianta*, in *Latine* *Triginta*, and in *English* *Thirty*, derived from this ground, because there standeth upon her, Thirty Castles, Thirty Market Towns, and are in her Thirty several sorts of Fishes.

*Answer.*

To which I thus answer, that forasmuch as into most Rivers falleth many several waters and many soyls, according unto the nature of those Countreys through which the Channels run, that therefore every alteration of soyl may alter the breed of Fry, and many several kinds may be in one Stream, for that the Angler in the choice of his pastime in such places, must either have a perfect knowledge how the soyls do alter (which he may commonly know by the bank,) or else rely upon his experience, which will be the best Tutor to direct him unto the haunts of several fishes; but for Ponds or standing Waters which are of one earth, there you shall surely find them best prosper, which are before rehearsed.

CHAP.

## CHAP. XIII.

*Of Baits in general, and of every particular kind; their Seasons, Use, and Preservations.*

**S**INCE I have thus far orderly passed over the outward and instrumental necessities appertaining to this modest Recreation, shewing the several tools and implements which are to be employed therein, and have also shewed the inward and mental knowledg which should be harboured in his breast that will be an Angler; I will now proceed to speak of the Baits and inticements, which are the Agents and effecters of our desires in this pastime, without which all other implements are vain and useless: for what doth it avail to have all other things in perfection, when this, which is the strength and life of the rest, is either imperfect or defective?

To speak then generally of Baits, they are divided into three kinds, which are Life-baits, Dead-baits, and Baits living but in appearance only. Your Life-baits are Worms of all kinds, especially the Red-worm, the Maggot, the Bobb, the Dor, Brown-flies, Frogs, Grasshoppers, Hornets, Wasps, Bees, Snails, small Roches, Bleaks, Gudgeons or Loches. Your dead baits are pastes of all makings, your brood of Wasps dried or undried, the clotted blond of Sheep, Cheese, Bramble-berries, Corn, Seeds, Cherries, and such like. And your Baits which seem to live, yet are dead, are Flies artificially made of all sorts and shapes, made of silk and feathers about your hooks, which will serve for every several season through the year, and being by your Line moved upon the water, seem to be live Flies, which the Fish with great greediness will catch up and devour.

Now for the season in which these baits are most profitable, Seasons. you shall understand that the Red worm will serve for small Fish all the year long; the Maggot is good in *July*, the Bobb and Dor in *May*, the brown flies in *June*, Frogs in *March*, Grasshoppers in *September*, Hornets in *July*, Wasps and Bees in *July*, Snails in *August*; for the Roch, Bleak or Gudgeon, they serve the Pikes at any season: all Pastes are good in *May*, *June*, and *July*; dried Wasps in *May*; Sheeps Blood and Cheese in *April*: for Bramble-berries,

## Of Flyes.

berries, Corn and seeds, they are good at the fall of the Leaf. Lastly, for your dead flyes, which are most proper for the Trout or Graveling, you shall know that the Dun Fly is good in *March*, being the lesser; but the greater Dun Fly will serve the later end of *February*: the Stone Fly is good in *April*, the Red Fly and Yellow Fly in *May*; the Black Fly, the dark Yellow Flye, and the Moorish Fly in *June*; the Tawny Fly part in *May*, and part of *June*; the Wasp Fly, and the Shell Fly in *July*; and the Cloudy dark Fly in *August*.

## The making of Flyes.

Now for the making of these Flyes, the Cloudy dark Flye is made of black Wooll clipt from between a Sheeps Ears, and whipt about with a black silk, his wings of the under Mail of the Mallard, and his head made black and suitable, fixed upon a fine piece of Cork, and folded so cunningly about the hook, that nothing may be perceived but the point and beard only. The Shell flye is made of fine green Flocks, and the wings of a Pew-glead. The Wasp Fly is made of Black Wooll, lapt about with yellow silk, and the wings of the down of a Buzzard. The Tawny Fly is made of tawny wooll, and the wings set on contrary to another, and made of the white down of a Widgeon. The Moorish Fly is made of fine Flocks shorn from a Freeze-gray Russet, and the wings of a Drake. The bright Yellow Fly is made of yellow Wooll, and his wings of a Red Cocks yellow main. The sad Yellow Fly is made of black Wooll, with a twisted yellow silk, like a list, whipt down on either side, and the wings of the wings of a Buzzard set on with black thread. The Black Flye is made of black Wooll, and lapt about with the herle of a Peacocks tayl, his wings with the brown feathers of the Mallard, and some of his blew feathers on his head. The Red Fly is made of Red wooll, lapt about with black silk, and the wings of the Mail of a Mallard, with some of the feathers of a Capon. The Stone Fly is made of black wooll made yellow under the wings, and under the tayl with silk, and the wings of Drakes down. The greatest Dun Fly is made of black wooll, and his wings of the Dun feathers of a Drakes tayl. The lesser Dun Fly is made of dun wooll, and his wings of the Mail of a Partridge.

Now for the shapes and proportions of these Flyes, it is impossible to describe them without *Painting*; therefore you shall take







of these several Flies alive; and laying them before you, try how near your art can come unto nature, by an equal shape and mixture of colours; and when you have made them, you may keep them in close boxes uncrushed, and they will serve you many years.

Now for the preservation and keeping of your quick baits (for Preservation longer then they are neat and sweet they are not good) you shall understand, that they must not be kept altogether, but every kind several by it self, and nourished with such comforts, as it delighteth in, when it is at liberty, or with such things as they breed in or upon when they are first taken. And first for the Red Worm, when you take them, you shall put them in a bag of red cloth, and chopping a handful of Fennel, mixe it with half so much fresh mould being black and fertile, and they will both live and scour therein. There be some Anglers which put wet mosse both under and above them: Others there be, which put Parsly or sweet Marjerom unto them, but the former way is the best, so you observe every night to renew their earth, or once in two dayes to refresh them with a little new Oxe-dung; and thus you may keep them two moneths without imperfection. For the great white Maggots, you shall mix with them sheeps tallow, or little bits of a Beasts Liver; the best way to scour them, is to put them into a bag of blanketing with sand, and hang them where they may have the air of the fire, or other warmth, for the space of an hour or two. For Frogs and Grashoppers, you shall keep them in wet moss, and long grass, moistned every night in water; and when you angle with them, you shall cut off their legs by the knees, and the Grashoppers wings near unto the body. For other Worms, as the Bob, Cadis-worm, Canker, and such like, you shall keep them with the same things you find upon them; and for all live Flies, you shall use them as you take them, only the Wasp, the Hornet, and Humble-Bee, which is without sting, you shall first dry them a little in a warm oven after the bread is drawn, and then dip all their head into sheeps blood, and then dry them again, and so keep them in a close box, and they will continue two or three moneths in all good perfection.

Now lastly, to speak of your made baits, which are pastes, the Of making most of them will last the whole year, and as they be divers, so I paste:

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will shew you how to compound every one of them in his true and perfect nature.

First, to make Pastes that shall last longest; you shall take Bean-flower, and those parts of the Conies leg which is called the Almond of the Coney; or if it be of a fat young Whelp, or a Cat, it is as good: and to these put a like quantity of Virgin Wax, and Sheeps Suet, and then beat them together in a Mortar, untill they be made one body, then with a little clarified Honey temper it before the fire, and so make it up in round balls, and it will last all the year: And the use thereof is, when you angle, to bait your hook therewith, and not any Fish which swimmeth in fresh waters, but will greedily bite thereat.

There is also another paste which is of equal quality and use with this, and will last as long; and that is, to take the Kidney-tallow of a sheep, and as much young Cheefe, and beat them in a Mortar till they be one body, then add to them as much Wheat-flower as will bring it to an exceeding stiffe paste, then knead it before the fire, and allay the stiffness with life-honey, and so make it up into balls.

The use of this paste is like the former. Take the blood of a Sheep, and of honey a like quantity, and beat them together with a lump of fresh Cheefe, then with the fine grated crums of white bread, work them into a stiffe paste, and so roul it up in balls; and when you angle, do not bait your hook therewith, but now and then cast little pellets thereof into the water, and it will intice the fish to resort unto you, and to bite with great greedinesse.

There be others which take bread crums, and beat them in a Mortar with ripe Cherries (the stones being taken out) untill it come to a stiffe paste, and then knead it up into balls, and use it as you do that which was last recited. It is most approved, and very excellent for all sorts of fish in fresh waters.

Lastly, If you take the oyl of the Aspray, and Coculus Indiar, and Asafoetida beaten, and mixe with it as much life-Honey, and then dissolve them in the oyl of Polypody, and so keep it in a close glass, then when you angle anoint your bait with this confection, and though the weather be never so unseasonable, or the fish never so ill disposed to bite, yet be sure you shall not lose your

your labour, but take them when all men else fail of their purpose : for the secret hath been rarely approved, and hitherto hath been concealed with great secrecie. And thus much for baits, and their uses.

#### CHAP. XIV.

*Of Angling for every several kind of Fish, according to their natures.*

**N**OW to shew you how you shall angle most properly for every several Fish, with true art, according to the nature of the fish, I think it not amiss, first to begin with the Gudgeon, Roch, and Dace, which being Fishes of eager bite, most foolish, least affrightful, and soonest deceived, are the first fittest preys for young Schollers, and such as are but Learners in the Art of Angling ; for the easinesse of their gaining, will not only settle an unresolved mind, but give unto ignorance both comfort and encouragement.

If then you will angle for any of these small Fishes in great streams, it shall be meet to take a Boat, and finding the places of their haunt, which is commonly in sandy clear waters, and where they run swiftest, there angle for them with your smallest hooks, well headed, and smallest Lines, well corkt. Your hook would rather drag than be an inch from the bottome, and your best bait is the Red-worm, Cod-worm, Maggot, clotted blood of Sheep cut in little bits, or else the white spawn or brood of Wasps : and ever as soon as you see the cork stir, suddenly strike, for they will lie nibbling at the bait, and finding the hook, forsake it. If you angle for them in small Brooks, you shall stand under Bridges, at the falls of Mills, behind Poplars, or Oziers, or any where, where the stream runneth deep and swift. And ever note, That when your bite fails, you remove your place, and seek out a new standing. And wisth all forget not ever when you angle for any of these fish, to cast in some of your paste before your hook, for this will make your sport much more abundant : and although the Dace out of his own nature biteth high, and near the top of the water, yet these baits and inticements will make him stoop, and be taken easily.

Of the Carps.

If you will angle for the Carp, you must have a strong Rod and a strong Line, of at least seven or nine hairs, and either mixt with green or watchet silk, your cork must be large, long and smooth; your Leads smooth and close, and fixt near the hook, and the hook almost of a three-penny compass. He is very dainty to bite, but at some special hours, as very early in the morning, or very late at night, and therefore he must be very much entiled with paste; his best Baits are the Moïs-worm, the Red-worm, or the Menew, for he seldome refuseth them. The Cadis-worm is good for him in *June*; and the Maggot, Black-worm or Grasshopper, in *July*, *August* and *September*. If you make paste of four Ale, white of Eggs, and bread-crumbs, it will very much entice him. Also I would ever wish you before you fish for the Carp, to cast in a handful of white-bread chippings into the Pond or River, for they will not only entice him to your bait, but also give you notice if you be near his haunt, for you shall presently hear him smack above the water; and then if you miss him, either your fortune or skill is not good.

Of the Chub, Chevin, or Trout.

If you will angle for the Chub, Chevin or Trout, all your instruments must be strong and good; your rod dark and discoloured, your line strong, but small and short, your hook of a two-penny compass: and if you angle with a Flye, then nor lead, nor cork, nor quill; if otherwise, then all of a handsome and suitable proportion.

The best standing to take them, is in close and concealed places, as behind trees, walls, or Arches of Bridges; their haunts are in clear waters, which run upon sand or gravel: and they are in best season, from *March* till *Michaelmas*. If you angle for them with dead Flyes without Lead or Cork, I have shewed you in the former Chapter, the several Flies for each several moneth; but if you angle for them with other baits, then you must have both Cork and Lead, for he will bite near the bottom, yet sometimes you may angle for him with a small Menew, hang'd at your hook by the neather parts, without Cork or Lead, and so draw the bait upon the top of the water; and both with it and with every Flye, strike rather before than after he biteth. If you angle for him at the ground, in *March*, *April*, *May*, and *September*,



*tember*, the Menew is good bait, so is the Stone-Fly, Cadis-worm, Bob, Red worm, Ditch Canker, young Frogs, the Worm that breedeth on the Ozier leaf, and the Dock-Canker mixt together. In *June*, Crickets and Dor-flies are good. In *July* the Grasshopper is good, so is the Humble-Bee, dried Wasps, or dried Hornets, or any of their young brood in the combs. In *August* flying Pismires are good, so is the Colewort-Worm, or the Maggot. And in *September*, Cherries, Mice before they have any hair, or the great Sow-worm.

If you will angle for the Eele, the best place is at Weares, <sup>Of the Eele,</sup> Mill-Ponds, Bridges, hollow Banks, or any swift falling water; your Line strong, and not above 2. Els in length, and very heavily plumb'd, a good round hook, but no cork, because you must not strike till the Eel pluck: neither must you by any means pull hastily, but holding your Line stiff, with Labour and Patience tire him, lest that tearing his chaps, you lose him. The best bait is the Red-worm, or little pieces of sheeps guts.

The Flounder and Sewant are greedy biters, yet very crafty; <sup>Of the Floun-</sup> for they will nibble and suck at a bait a good while before they <sup>der and Sew-</sup> swallow it, and if they perceive the hook, they will flie from it. <sup>ant.</sup> Therefore to make them more hasty of the bait, you must ever be moving your line, and seldome let it lie still. They lie most commonly in the deepest places of the River, where the water is stillest, and runneth with least force. Also they lie near unto the bank, and delight most in the stream which is brackish, and mixt with the salt water. Your lines must be strong, and well plumb'd near to the hook; and the best bait is the Red Worm, and the young brood of Wasps.

The Barbel or Greyling, which some call the Ember, are very <sup>Of the Grey-</sup> subtle and crafty fishes: Therefore you must be very careful that ling or Barbel, your baits be sweet and new, and when you angle for them, do in all things as you do for the Trout; for they bite aloft in the Summer, and at the bottom in the Winter. Your Lines must be extraordinary strong, and your hooks of a three penny compasse, for they are fishes of weighty bodies, and when they are struck, must have liberty to play and tire themselves, or else they will indanger the breaking of your Rod, and therefore your Line must be of the longest size.

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The best season to angle for the Bream, is from the later end of *February* till *September*: he is a very lusty strong fish, and therefore your tools must be good: the baits in which he most delighteth is, in Worms of all sorts, Butter-flies, green Flies, paste of Bread crumbs, or the brood of Wasps.

*Of the Tench.* The Tench is a Fish that ever loveth the bottom of Rivers, where the Ooze or Mud is thickest; and is most fit to be angled for, in height of Summer; for at other seasons he is not apt to bite, and at all times he is very dainty.

The Baits in which he delighteth most, are pastes that are very sweet; and the browner the better, especially if it be made with the Blood of a Sheep. At the great Red Worm also he will bite, and so much the sooner, if you mix them with this paste: The Maggot and dryed Wasp he will seldome refuse, chiefly being dipp'd in Honey.

*Of the Bleak,  
Ruff, and  
Perch.*

The Bleak, Ruff, and Perch are Fishes which bite neither high nor low, but for the most part in the midst of the water, therefore your Line must be very lightly plumb'd, and far from the hooks. The Baits which most intice them, besides the Red-worm, is the House-Fly in the Summer, and fat of Bacon in the Winter: In *April* they will bite well at the Bob-worm or Maggot, and in all other seasons they seldome refuse any Worm or Canker. Your Line would be small, and well armed from the hook a hundred furlongs, with smaller wiers, for the teeth of the Perch will else gnaw it asunder.

*Of the Pike.*

The Pike is a Fish of great strength and weight, insomuch, that you can hardly have a Line of hair to bold him; therefore your best Anglers use most commonly a Chalk line; your Angle-rod also must have no small top, but be all of one piece and bignesse, and the line made exceeding fast from slipping. Your hook would be of the strongest wiew, white, or yellow, and made double, the points turning two contrary wayes, and then armed with strong wiew a foot at least; his best Bait is a little small Rock, Dace or Menew, the hook being put in at the tail, and coming forth under the gills, and you must seldom or never let your bait lie still in water, but draw it up and down, as though the fish did move in the water, and fled from the Pike, for this will

will make him more eager and hasty to bite : and having bit, you must be sure to tire him well before you take him up.

The yellow live Frog is also an excellent bait for the Pike, for you must understand, that they naturally delight not in any dead or unmoving food.

There be some which take a great deal of delight and pleasure to Snickle or halter the Pike, which is good when Pikes are the Pike. broke out of Ponds or Rivers, and come into small Ditches or Rundles, as is oft to be seen in low-Countries. The way then to halter them, is first to find the Pike where he lieth (which in the heat of the day you may easily do) then take your Chalk-Line, and making a large running nooze thereof, put it gently into the water, about two feet before the nose of the Pike, then when you feel it touch the ground, cause one to go behind the Pike, and with a pole to stir him, then as he shooteth, meet him with your nooze, and so with a sudden and quick jerk throw him upon the Land. In this sport you must be very ready, nimble, and quick-sighted, for if you give him the least time, he will escape you.

Now lastly, touching the angling for the Salmon, albeit he is a Fish which in truth is unfit for your travel, both because he is too huge and cumbersome, as also in that he naturally delighteth to lie in the bottoms of great deep Rivers, and as near as may be in the midst of the channel; yet forasmuch as many men esteem that best which is got with most difficulty, you shall understand that the baits which he most delighteth in, are those which serve for the Trout, as paste or Flies in the Summer; and Red-worms, Bob-worms, or Cankers on the Water-docks after Michaelmas. And thus much for the Art of Angling, and taking of each several sort of fish which live in the fresh or brackish waters.

CHAP.

## CHAP. XV.

*Of taking Fish without Angles: And first of laying Hooks.*

**T**He laying of hooks to take fish in the Night, is most commonly used for the Pike, in great broad Waters or Meers, full of Sedges, Bulrushes, and other Weeds, being very deep and muddy: Some do use to lay them for the Eele also, but you shall understand, that if you lay for the Pike, you must by no means let your hook go to the bottom, but with a float keep it half a foot from the ground; but if you lay for Eels, then let your hooks be smaller, and sink as low as they will.

Now for the manner of laying them, you shall bait the hooks as you did when you angled, with Menew, Roch, Dace, Gudgeon, or Millers thumb; and being made fast to strong pack-thread, fasten also that pack-thread to a strong cord, which cord if it be three fadom in length, may hold sixteen or twenty hooks. Then fixing two strong stakes into the earth, fasten the two ends of the big cord to the two stakes, and so let it lie from Sun-set, untill Sun-rise, and you shall never fail, but some of your hooks will have taken. Only observe, if you lay for Pikes, to lay in the midst of the water, near unto the sedge and weeds: but if you lay for Eels, lay very near the banks, so there be no hollow or rotten Trees growing thereon.

Now if you would with these laid hooks take any other sort of Fish, you shall lay such hooks as are fit for them: and before you depart away, cast into the water good store of pellets of those pastes which are proper for the Fishes you would take; as the paste which is made of Bran, Sheeps blood, Garlick, and Lees of Wine, will take all sorts of small fish: that paste which is made of Sheeps Liver, Guts, Hogs blood, Bread crums, and Opopanax, will bring Perch, Tench, Carp or Bream unto your hooks; and that paste which is only made of Rue, Pine-apple kernels, Bean meal and Honey will bring the Salmon, the Trout, Chevin, or Barbels unto your hooks, at all times of the year.

CHAP.







## CHAP. XVI.

*Of preserving Fish from all sorts of Devourers.*

**A**Mongst all the Ravenous Creatures which destroy Fish, there is none more greedy than the Otter, whose only food being thereon, hourly lyeth in wait to consume them: Therefore though some Fisher-men use to take them with a Wheel made with a double tunnel, and called by the name of the Otter-wheel, whose practice is so ordinary, that every Fisher-man knows the use of the same; Yet for a more easie and ready way to destroy him, you shall as near as you can find out his haunt, and the holes that are in the bank, and under the Roots of Trees where he lodgeth, and then take a great Eele, and slitting her back above her navil, put in three or four lumps of *Arsnick*, and then stitch up the skin again, and so lay the Eele from the navil downward in the water, and from the navil upward out of the water: which when the Otter finds, it is his property to eat unto the navil, and no further; which if he do, it is certain that it is the last he will eat.

Next to the Otter, the Hern is a great devourer of Fish, especially the small frye, or that which lives in shallow places: Therefore to destroy the Hern, you shall take a strong Barbell hook, and bait it either with a Menew, or a piece of Doggs flesh, colour your Line green, and lay it in a shallow place made fast to some stake, where the Hern may wade to the knee to take it, and as soon as he hath swallowed it, he shall no more go from the place.

Now for as much as the Fowl is a great destruction unto the young Spawn or Fry of Fish, it shall be good for the preservation thereof, to stake down into the bottom of your Ponds good long Kids or Faggots of brush-wood, mixt with the boughs of green Willows, or Oziers, in which the Fish casting their Spawn it will be a defence for them, till they be able to flye into better safety.

Next to the Hern the Water-Rat is a great destroyer of young

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fish, especially Trouts, Crevisses, or any that lye in holes in the banks: the best way to destroy them is by hunting them with water Dogs, which is a very good sport, and I have seen twenty kill'd in an afternoon: but some do use to take them with hatches, or dead-falls, set in their haunts: but the former way is the better.

Next them, the Sea-Pye, and Sea-Mew is a great devourer or consumer of Fish, and there is no better way to take him than by setting Rods drest with water Lime, and set shoring on the edge of the water, one guesse or row over another, in such places as the Water is most shallow; and upon some tufts of green Weeds, lay a fish for a bait under the Rods, at which he can no sooner strike, but he is presently taken.

Next these, the Kings Fisher (which is a small green Bird) is a great destroyer of Fish, and the way to take him is to mark his haunt where he commonly sitteth, which is ever in some buffi next the River: then set a little Cradle of limed straws about his seat, and they will quickly take him, for he seldome changeth, but ever sitteth upon one bough.

Now to conclude, for the Cormorant, the More-hen, the Bald Coot, or the Ospray, which destroy all kind of Fish whatsoever, there is no way better to kill them, then by watching their haunts, to shoot at them with a Fowling piece, and in the breeding time of the year to destroy their nests.

## CHAP. XVII.

### *Of the Ordering of Ponds for the nourishment of Fish.*

**T**Here is nothing that killeth Fish, or maketh them to prosper worse, than putrified and stinking waters: neither is there any thing which corrupteth Water sooner then weeds, Sedge, and such filthiness, being suffered to grow therein; Therefore it shall be good once in three years for to cleanse your Ponds of all manner of Weeds and Filth, which with a small Boat and sharp hook you may easily do at the fall of the leaf, for to cut them in the Spring doth increase them. Now if your Ponds be much subject to mud, as for the most part those in clay Countries are, then it shall

shall be good once in seven years to drain them, and lade them, and this would be done at the beginning of the Spring; and such Fish as you are willing and mean to preserve, you shall put into smaller pits or stews, and the other dispose at your pleasure: then causing the mud to be trodden with mens feet as you tread mortar, you shall see all the Eeles rise aloft, which when you have taken also, then with shovels and trough Spades cast out all the mud and filth (which is a singular compost for Land) upon the bank; then sodde the bottom of the Pond and the sides with green fodds, and fix them hard into the Earth with small stakes of Sallow, and these sides will nourish the Fish exceedingly.

This done, if your Pond have not any fresh Spring in it, then you shall lade the water back again into it, and then draining your stews, take out your store of Fish, and put them again into your Pond, observing ever that there be two parts spawners; and but a third melters.

These pits and small Stews, howsoever others write to the contrary, are better for feeding of Fish, then breeding: therefore you shall ever keep them with fresh water, and placing so one by another, that you may empty them at pleasure, once in three months renew their banks and bottomes with fresh foddes of the fruitfulest grasse; also, you shall put into them good store of small Fry of Roch, Dace, Menew, Loch, and Miller-thumbs: for the bigger Fish will feed thereon: also the inward Garbage and blood of Sheep, Calves, Hoggs, and such like, which will fat fish suddenly; for you must know, that as the Fish in Rivers have by vertue of the current ever something brought to them to feed on, so the Fish which is imprisoned in Ponds and wants that help, must either be relieved or else perish; and there is nothing better to feed them with, then that before spoken of, or else Brewers Grains, chippings, curds, and any Corn whatsoever, thrown into the Ponds Morning and Evening.

## CHAP. XVIII.

*Of the best Water-Lime.*

**T**He best Water-Lime that can be made, and which will most surely hold within the water, is to take a pound of the strongest Bird-lime, and wash it in nine running Waters, until there be no hardness in it, and then beat out the water clean, and dry it. Which done, put it into an Earthen pot, and adde thereto as much Capons Grease as will make it run, two spoonfuls of strong Vinegar, a very little Lamp Oyl, and Venice Turpentine, and boyl them all gently together upon a soft fire, stirring it continually. Then take it from the fire, and let it cool, then at any time when you mean to use it, warm it, and then anoint either your Rods, Buffes, Straws, or Lines, and no water will take away the strength.

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## Of the Fighting Cock.

### CHAP. XIX.

*Of the Choyce, Ordering, Breeding, and Dying of the  
Fighting Cock for Battel.*

**S**INCE there is no pleasure more Noble, Delightful, or void of couzenage and deceit then this pleasure of Cocking is; and since many of the best Wisdomes of our Nation have been pleased to participate with the delights therein, I think it not amiss, as well for the instruction of those which are unexperienced, as fortifying of them which have some knowledg therein, to declare in a few Lines the Election, Breeding, and Secrets of dyeting the Fighting Cock, which having been hitherto concealed and unwritten of, is (for our pleasure sake) as worthy of a generall Knowledge as any delight whatsoever.

To speak then first of the choyce of the Fighting Cock, you shall understand, That the best Characters you can observe in him is the Shape, Colour, Courage, and sharp heel.

For his shape, the middle and different size is ever accounted best, because they be ever most matchable, strong, nimble, and ready for your pleasure in his battle: and so the exceeding little Cock is as hard to match, and is commonly weak and tedious in his manner of Fighting. He would be of a proud and upright shape,

The choyce of  
the Cock for  
the battel.

shape, with a small head, like unto a Spar-hawk, a quick large Eye, and a strong back, crookt and bigg at the setting on, and in colour suitable to the plume of his feathers, as black, yellow, or reddish. The beam of his legg would be very strong, and according to his Plume, Blew, Gray or Yellow; his spurs long, rough, and sharp, a little bending and looking inward.

For his Colour, the gray pyle, the yellow pyle, or the red with the black breast is esteemed the best: the pide is not so good, and the white and dun are the worst. If he be Red about the head, like scarlet, it is a sign of lust, strength and courage; but if he be pale, it is a sign of sickness and faintness.

For his Courage, you shall observe it in his walk by his treading, and the pride of his going, and in his pen by his oft crowing.

For the sharpnesse of his heel, or as Cock-masters call it, the narrow heel, it is only seen in his fighting, for that Cock is said to be sharp heel'd or narrow heeld, which every time he riseth hitteth, and draweth blood of his adversary, gilding (as they term it) his spurs in blood, and threatning at every blow an end of that Battail.

And these Cocks are surely of great estimation, for the best Cock-Masters are of opinion; that a sharp heel'd Cock, though he be a little false, is much better then the truest Cock which hath a dull heel, and hitteth seldome, for though the one fight long, yet he seldome wounds, and the other though he will not endure the uttermost hewing, yet he makes a very suddain and quick dispatch of his business, for every blow puts his adversary in danger.

But that Cock which is both assuredly hard, and also very sharp heeld, he is to be esteemed, and is of the most account above all other, and therefore in your general Election chuse him which is of a strong shape, good colour, true valour, and of a most sharp and ready heel.

Now for the breeding of these Cocks for the battail, it is much differing from those of the dung-hill, for they are like Birds of prey, in which the female is ever to be preferred and esteemed before

The breeding  
of the battail  
Cock.



before the Male, and so in the breed in of these Birds, you must be sure that your Hen be right, that is to say, she must be of a right plume, as gray grissel, speckt or yellowish, black or brown is not amiss; she must be kindly unto her young, and of large body, well poked behind for large Eggs, and well tufted on the crown, which shews courage: if she have Weapons she is better, but for her valour it must be excellent, for if there be any sort of cowardise in her, the Chickens cannot be true.

And it is a Note amongst the best breeders, That the perfect Hen from a Dunghill Cock, will bring a good Chicken, but the best Cock from a Dunghill Hen can never get a good bird; and I have known in mine own experience, that the two famousst Cocks that ever fought in these dayes, the one called *Noble*, the other *Grissel*, begot on many ill Hens very bad Cocks; but the most famous Hen *Jinks*, never brought forth ill Bird, how bad soever her Cock were.

Having then unto perfect Cocks got perfect Hens, (for that is the best breeding) you shall know, that the best season of the year to breed in, is from the encrease of the Moon in *February*, to the encrease of the Moon in *March*: for one *March* Bird is ever better worth than three at any other season. You shall place her pen in which she sitteth, to stand warm, and to make her bed of soft and sweet straw, for they be much tenderer then the dunghill hens are; neither shall you suffer any other Fowl to come in her view where she sits, for it will move her to displeasure, and make her to endanger her Eggs.

You shall also observe in her sitting, whether she be busie to turn her Eggs, (which is a good sign in a Hen) and if she be slack, you shall help her at such times as she riseth from her nest, and ever be sure that when she cometh from her nest, to have meat and water ready for her; lest being forced to seek her food, she suffer her Eggs to cool too much. Also, you shall have Sand, Gravel, and fine sifted ashes in the Room where she sitteth, in which she may bath and trim her self, at her pleasure.

After one and twenty dayes is the time of their hatching, and if when they are new hatched, she do neglect to cover and keep the  
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the first warm till the rest be disclosed, you shall observe her and take those that are first opened, and lapping them in warm Wooll, lay them within the ayr of the fire till the rest be hatcht, and then put them all under her, and keeping both the Hen and them exceeding warm, for they be so tender, that the least cold will kill them, and suffer neither them nor the Hen to go abroad into the ayr till they be a moneth old; and let them have store of food, as Oat-meal, Cheefe-parings, Chilter-wheat, and such like, and a large Room to walk in, the floor being boord; for the earth floor is too moyst, and the plaister-floor too cold.

After they are a moneth old, you shall let them walk in some grass Court or green place, where they may have store of Worms, but by all means be sure there be no stinking puddles of water in it; no sinks, nor filthy Channels, for it is the greatest poyson that can be to birds of this nature, and breedeth those Diseases which are most mortal: if every morning before they go forth, you perfume them and their Room with Rosemary, or Penny-royal burnt, it is a great preservation against all those infirmities; or to chop Leek blades amongst their meat is very good also.

In this sort you shall nourish them till you may distinguish the Cock-Chicken from the Hen, and then seeing their Comb or Wattels but appear, you shall cut them away, and so anoint the fore with sweet Butter till it be whole. This will make them have fine small, slender and smooth heads, whereas to suffer the Comb to grow to his bigness, and then cut it away, it will make him a gouty thick head, with great lumps: neither is the Flux of bloud wholesome, for the least loss of bloud in a feathered Fowl is exceeding mortal, and very dangerous.

You shall suffer your Cock-Chicken to go together with their Hens till they begin to fight, and peck one at another, but then you shall separate them, and disperse them into several walks; and that walk is the best for a Fighting Cock which is farthest from resort, as at Wind-Mills or Water-Mills, Grange-houses and such like, where he may live with his Hens without the offence

offence or company of other cocks. Lodges in Parks are also good, and so are Cony-Warrens, only they are a little too much haunted with vermine, and that is dangerous. Let the feeding place for your cocks be upon soft dry ground, or upon boards: to feed upon paved earth, or on Plaster floors, will make their beaks weak, blunt, and not apt to hold fast. Any white-corn is good food for a cock in his walk, and so are tofts or crufts of bread steeped in drink, or mans urine, for it will both scour and coole them inwardly.

If your chickens begin to crow (not being six months old) clear and lowd; or at unseasonable times, do not esteem them, for it is an apparant signe of cowardise and falshood; for the true cock is very long before he get his voyce, and when he hath it, he observes his hours with the best judgment. Unto your fighting cock three hens are sufficient, five are with the most; for they are so hot of nature, and will tread so much, that they soon consume their natural strength.

A cock would not be put to the battel before he be two years old, at which time he is perfect and compleat in every member; for to suffer him to fight when his spurres are but warts, you may well know his courage, but never his goodnesse.

You must also have an especiall care to the Perch whereon your cock sitteth when he roosteth, for if it be too small in the gripe, or crooked, or so ill placed that he cannot sit but he must straddle with his legs, any of these faults wil make uneven heeld and whatsoever he was naturally, yet by this accident he will never be a good striker, for the making of the Perch either maketh or marreth the Cock. Therefore to prevent this fault, the best way is to have in your roost a row of little Perches, not above seven or eight inches in length, and not a foot from the ground, so that your Cock may with ease go up to them, and being set, must of force have his legs stand neer together. It is a rule, that he which is a close sitter, is ever a narrow striker.

Let the footstool of the Perch be round & smooth, and about the bigness of a mans arm. Yet for your better knowledg, because words cannot so well expresse these quantities, it shall not be a-

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miss for you to go to some famous Cock-masters house, and view the Perches which are within his feeding Pens, and according to those proportions frame your own; for the Perch is the making and spoyling of any Cock whatsoever.

Again, you must be careful, that when your Cock doth leap from his Perch, that the ground be soft whereon he lighteth, for if it be hard or rough, it will make your Cock grow gouty, and put forth knots upon his feet.

The dyeting  
of Cocks for  
the battel.

Now lastly, for the dyeting and ordering of a Cock for a battel, which is a secret never yet divulged, but kept close in the breasts of some few; and forasimuch as in it only consisteth all the ground and substance of the pleasure, the best Cock undieted, not being able to encounter with the worst Cock that is dieted, you shall understand, that the time to take up your Cocks, is at the later end of *August*, (for from that time till the later end of *May*, Cocking is in request) and having viewed them well, and seen that they are sound, hard feathered, and full summed, you shall put them into several pens, the models whereof you may behold in every Cock-masters, or Inne-keepers house, having a moving Perch in it, to set at which corner of the Pen you please.

Of taking up  
Cocks.

Of the Cock-  
Pen.

This Pen should be made of very close boards well joyned together all but the fore-front, which would be made open like a grate; one bar two inches distant from another; and before the grate, two large troughs of soft wood, one for his meat, the other for his water. The door of the grate should be made to lift up and down, of such largeness, that you may with ease put your Cock in and out, and daily cleanse the Pen to keep it sweet and wholesome.

This Pen would be at least three foot in height, and two foot in square every way, and many of them may be joyned in one front, according to the bigness of the room, in which they are built: and also one above another, only with over-shadowing boards, so that one Cock may not see another.

Of his diet.

When your Cock, as aforesaid, is put up into his Penne, you shall for three or four dayes feed him only with old manchet, the crust pared away, and cut into little square bits, and you shall give

give him to the quantity of a good handfull at a time, and you shall feed him three times in a day, that is to say, at Sun-rise, at highest noon and at Sun-set ; You shall ever let him have before him the finest, coldest, and sweetest Spring-water that you can get.

After he hath been thus fed four days, and his Corn, Worms, Gravel, and other course feeding gone from him, in the Morning take him out of the Pen, and another Cock also, and putting a pair of Hots upon each of their heels, ( which hot are soft bum-basted rolls of Leather, covering their spurs, so that they cannot hurt or bruise one another,) and so setting them down on the green grass, let them fight and buffet one another a good space, as long as in their teaching they do not wound or draw blood one upon another ; and this is called the sparring of Cocks ; it heateth and chafeth their bodies, and it breaketh the fat and glut which is within them, and maketh it apt to cleanse and come away.

After your Cocks have sparred sufficiently, and that you see them pant, and grow weary, you shall take them up, and taking off their Hots, you must have deep straw baskets made for the purpose, with sweet soft straw to the middle, and then put in your Cock, cover him with sweet straw up to the top, and then lay on the lid close, and there let your Cock stowe and sweat till the Evening.

But yet before you put him into the stowe, you shall take Butter and Rosemary finely chopt, and white Sugar-candy, all mixt together, and give him a lump thereof, as much as your thumb, and then let him sweat ; for the nature of this scouring is to bring away his grease, and to breed breath and strength. You may in time of necessity, for want of these straw baskets, stow your Cock in a Cock-bag, by laying straw both under and above him, but it is not so good, because the Air hath more power to pass thorow it.

After four of the clock in the Evening, you may take your Cock out of the stowe, and licking his head and eyes all over with your tongue, put him into his Pen, and then taking a good handfull of bread, small cut, put it into his trough, and then pissing into the trough also give it him to eat, so as he may take his bread

out of the warm Urine, for this will make his scouring work, and cleanse both his head and body wonderfully.

Now you shall understand, that the bread which you shall give him at this time, and at all other times during his dieting, shall not be manchet, but a special bread made for the purpose, in this manner: You shall take of Wheat-meal half a peck, and of fine Oat-meal flower as much, and mixing them together, knead them into a stiff paste with Ale, the white of a dozen Eggs, and half a pound of Butter, and having wrought the dowe exceeding well, make it into broad thin cakes, and being three or four dayes old, and the blisterings of the outside cut away, cut it into little square bits, and give it the Cock.

There be some others that in this bread will mixe Licoras, Anniseeds, and other hot Spices, and will also in the Cock-water keep slices of Licoras; but it is not commendable, for it is both unnatural and unwholsome, and maketh a cock so hot at the heart, that when he comes to the later end of a battle, he is suffocated and overcome with his own heat: therefore I advise men of judgement, to take that for the best diet which is most natural, and least contrary unto the fowls ordinary feeding.

But to return to my former discourse, after you have fed your Cock thus for all night, you shall the next day let him rest, and only give him his ordinary feedings of bread and water, then the next day (which is the second day after his sparring) you shall take him into a fair even green Close, and there setting him down, having some Dung-hill Cock in your arms, you shall shew it him, and so run from him, and entice him to follow you, and so chase him up and down half an hour at least, suffering him now and then to have a stroke at the Dung-hill Cock. And when you see that he is well heated and panteth, you shall take him up and bear him into your Cock-house, and there first give him this scouring: Take of Butter, which hath no salt, half a pound, and beat it in a Mortar with the leaves of Herb of grace, Hyssop, and Rosemary, till the herbs cannot be perceived, and that the Butter is brought to a green Salve, and of this give the Cock a roul

or



or two, as big as your thumb, and then stowe him in a basket, as is before said, till Evening, and then feed him as was formerly declared.

The next day you shall let him rest and feed, and the next day after, you shall sparre him again: and thus every other day for the first fortnight, you shall either sparre or chase your Cock, which are the most naturallest and kindest heats that you can give him, and after every heat you shall give him a scouring: for this will break and cleanse from him all grease, glut and filthines, which lying in his body, makes him purfie, faint, and not able to stand out the later end of a battel.

Having fed your Cock thus the first fortnight, the second fortnight you shall also feed him in the same manner, and with the same food; but you shall not sparre him, or give him heats above twice in a week at the most, insomuch, that thrice or four times in the fortnight will be sufficient, and each time you shall stowe and scour him according to the nature of his heats, that is to say, if you heat him much, you shall stowe him long, and give him of your scouring the greater quantity; if you find that he is in good breath, and needeth but slight heats, then you shall stowe him the lesse while, and give him the lesse of the scouring.

Now to the third fortnight, which maketh up the six Weeks compleat (being a time sufficient to prepare a Cock for the battail) you shall feed him as aforesaid, but you shall not sparre him at all, for fear of making his head tender or sore, neither give him any violent exercise, but only twice or thrice in the fortnight, moderately let him run and chase up and down, to maintain his wind, and now and then cuffe a Cock, which you shall hold to him in your hands; which done, you shall give him his scouring well rounded in the powder of Sugar-Candy, white or brown, but brown is the better, for the Cock then being come to perfect breath, and having no filth in his body for the scouring to work on, it will work and cause operation upon the vital parts, and make the Cock sick, which the Sugar-candy will prevent, and strengthen Nature against the Medicine.

After



The matching  
of Cocks.

After the end of six weeks feeding, finding your Cock in lust and breath, you may fight him at your pleasure, observing that he have at least three dayes rest before he fight, and well emptied of his meate before you bring him into the Pit.

Now when you bring him into the Pit to fight, you must have an especial care to the matching of him, for in that art consisteth the greatest glory of the Cock-master, for what availeth it to feed never so well, if in the matching you give that advantage which overthroweth your former labour? Therefore in your matching, there are two things to be considered; that is, the length of cocks and the strength of cocks; for if your Adversary's Cock be too long, yours shall hardly catch his head, and then he can never endanger eye nor life: and if he be the stronger, he will overbear your Cock, and not suffer him to rise, and strike with any advantage: therefore for the knowledge of these two rules, though experience be the best Tutor, yet the first, which is length, you shall judge by your eye, when you gripe the Cock about the waste, and make him shoot out his legs, in which posture you shall see the utmost of his height, and so compare them in your judgment. Now for his strength, which is known by the thickness of his body, (for that Cock is ever held the strongest, which is the largest in the garth) you shall know it by the measure of your hands, gripping the Cock about from the points of your great finger, to the joynts of your thumbs, and either of these advantages by no means give to your adversary; but if you doubt loss in the one, yet be sure to gain in the other: for the weak long Cock will rise at more ease, and the short strong Cock will give the surer blow; so that because all Cocks are not cast into a mould, there may be a reconciliation of the advantages, yet by all means give as little as you can.

Of preparing  
Cocks to the  
fight.

When your Cock is equally matcht, you shall thus prepare him to the fight; first, with a pair of fine Cock shears, you shall cut all his main off, close unto his neck, even from his head, unto the setting on of his shoulders; then you shall clip off all the feathers from his tail, close unto his Rump, where the more scarlet that you see in his Rump, in the better estate of body the Cock is. Then you shall take his wings, and spreading them forth

forth by the length of the first feather of his rising wing clip the rest slope wise with sharp points, that in his rising he may therewith endanger the eye of his adversary : then with a sharp knife you shall scrape smooth and sharpen his spurs.

Lastly, you shall see that there be no feathers about the crown of his head for his foe to take hold on, and then with your spittle, moistning his head all over, turn him into the Pit to move his fortune. When the battail is ended, the first thing you do, you shall search his wounds, and as many as you can find, you shall with your mouth suck the blood out of them, then wash them very well with warm urine, to keep them from rankling, and then presently give him a roul or two of your best scouring, and so stowe him up as hot as you can, both with sweet straw and blanketing, in a close basket for all that night ; then in the morning take him forth, and if his head be much swell'd, you shall suck his wounds again, and bath them with warm Urine, then having in a fine bag the powder of the herb *Robert*, well dried, and finely seift, pounce all the sore places therewith, and then give the Cock a good handful of bread to eat, out of warm urine, and so put him into the stove again, in the same manner as before mentioned, and by no means let him feel the air untill all the swelling be gone, but twice a day suck his wounds, dresse him and feed him, as is aforefaid.

The ordering  
of Cocks after  
battail, and the  
curing them.

But if he have received any hurt, or blemish in his eye, then you shall take a leaf or two of right ground Ivy, (not that which runneth along the ground, and is of the ignorant so called, but that which growes in little tufts in the bottome of hedges, and is a little rough leaf,) and having chewed it very well in your mouth, and sucked out the juyce, spit it in the eye of the Cock, and it will not only cure it of any wound, or any blow in the eye, where the sight is not pierced, but also defend it from the breeding of Films, Hawes, Warts, or any such other infirmities which quite destroy the sight : Observing that you do not cease to dresse the eye therewith so long as you shall perceive any blemish therein.

Now if your Cock have in his sight veyned himself, either by narrow striking, or other cross blow, you shall find out the wound,  
and

and presently bind thereunto the fine soft down of a Hare, and it will both staunch it and cure it.

For any other casual infirmity or sicknesse which shall happen unto Cocks, look in the former Book called *Cheap and Good*, and you shall find them set down at large; only I will give you this one small remembrance, That after you have put forth your wounded Cocks to their walks, and come to visit them a moneth or two after, if you find about their head any swollen bunches, hard and blackish at one end, you shall know that in such bunches are unsound cores; therefore presently with your knife you shall open the same, and crush out the cores with your thumbs, then with your mouth suck out all the corruption, and then fill the holes full of fresh Butter, and it will cure them. And thus much for the nature of the Cock, and how to keep him for his best use.

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FINIS.

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